

Yorkshire

A-3.6
GRA

*The Library
of the
University
of
Leeds*

LEEDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Classmark: YORKSHIRE A-3.6 GRA

Special Collections



30106015880411

A BARNSLEY CENTENARIAN.

Mr. George Russell, of 18, Church Street, Ardsley, Barnsley, yesterday celebrated the hundredth anniversary of his birth. Mr. Russell was born on March 14, 1822, just on the fringe of the township, at Wood Laithes Farm, his farther being farm bailiff at the time. He worked for many years as pit-hill weighman at the New Oaks Colliery, Stairfoot, not far from his home, and, later, occupied the position of land-salesman until he was 87 years of age, when he retired. He is a life-long teetotaler and non-smoker. He has been a staunch member of the United Methodist Church in the village, and was choirmaster for 60 years. He was twice married, and has two sons and daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

1573/24

for good Indians community
in this the following
is largely written

Yorkshire Longevity:

OR,

RECORDS

AND

BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES OF PERSONS

WHO HAVE

ATTAINED TO EXTREME OLD AGE WITHIN THAT
COUNTY.

BY

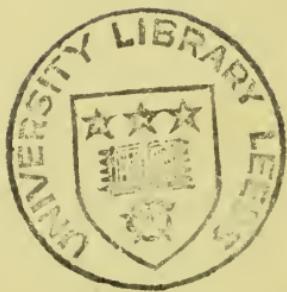
WILLIAM GRAINGE,

AUTHOR OF "BATTLES AND BATTLE FIELDS OF YORKSHIRE,"
"CASTLES AND ABBEYS OF YORKSHIRE," "HISTORY OF
NIDDERDALE," ETC., ETC.

PATELEY BRIDGE:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THOMAS THORPE
LONDON: T. T. LEMARE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1864.



Yorkshire Longevity.

[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

A GIPSY'S PROPHECY.

WHAT SHE TOLD A YORKSHIRE CENTENARIAN.

"A gipsy told me before I was married that I should live to a great age," Mrs. Ann Carr, of Frickley, told a "Yorkshire Evening Post" representative to-day. Mrs. Carr has just celebrated her hundredth birthday at the home of her son, Mr. Charles Carr, at Home Farm.

She was born at North Elmsall on July 27, 1821, and was married there 80 years ago. She has had nine children—eight sons and a daughter. Her husband has been dead for a quarter of a century.

Mrs. Carr has so many great-great-grandchildren—many of them in the Wakefield district and some in Canada—that no exact count of them has been kept.

Time has claimed the sight of this old lady, and her hearing has become affected, but her other faculties are quite good, and her spirit still youthful.

26.7.21

INTRODUCTION.

“THE days of our years are threescore years and ten ; and if, by reason of strength, they be fourscore, yet is their strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” Psalm, xc. 10. From this expression of the psalmist we learn that the age of man has not been shortened for the last three thousand years,—as it was then, so is it now: age, and the many evils “flesh is heir to,” have done their work upon the human frame very often before it has reached the allotted round, and it has become as “the clods of the valley.” Numbers, however, do exceed that period; yet, generally, “their strength is labour and sorrow.” Old age was regarded by the Hebrews as a blessing from on high, or a reward attached to a life of virtue; it was, also, entitled to peculiar homage; and, no doubt, when men lived to the age of several hundred years, the wisdom they must have acquired would give them great influence in their family, or tribe. Many expressions of scripture confirm the opinion above given,

as, “The fear of the Lord prolongeth days ; but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.” Proverbs x. 27. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. Proverbs, ix. 10, 11. “Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full old age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.” Job, iv. 26. Numbers of texts might be cited, representing the wicked as “cut off in the midst of their days.”

The Egyptians, in the most glorious period of their history, paid great respect to old age. The young were obliged to rise for the old, and, on every occasion, to resign for them the most honourable seat. The Spartans, also, honoured the aged,—by saluting them, by giving them place in the streets, and in rising up to shew them honour in all companies and public assemblies : so that it was an agreeable thing to grow old in that city ; and old age had nowhere so honourable an abode as in Sparta.

The Chinese erect statues, or honorary arches, to the memory of persons who have attained to the age of one hundred years, considering that such individuals must have been special favourites of heaven ; or, else, that they must have led such peculiarly virtuous and sober

lives as justly to intitle them to the respect and gratitude of society.

What is the oldest age that is now attained? What is the measure of the complete orbit of human life? The census of 1851 furnishes some aid towards the prosecution of this inquiry. In Great Britian, more than half a million of the inhabitants (five hundred and ninety-six thousand and thirty,) have passed the barrier of "threescore years and ten;" more than one hundred and twenty-nine thousand have passed the Psalmist's limit of "fourscore years," and nearly ten thousand have lived ninety years, or more; a band of two thousand and thirty-eight aged pilgrims have been wandering ninety-five years and more on the unended journey; and three hundred and nineteen say that they have witnessed more than one hundred revolutions of the seasons.—*Registrar General's Report.—Census 1851.*

Though longevity prevails more in some districts than in others, yet it is by no means confined to any particular nation or climate; nor are there wanting instances of it in almost every quarter of the globe; nor does it depend so much, as has been supposed, on any particular climate, situation, or occupation in life: for we see that it often prevails where all these are extremely dissimilar;

one circumstance, common to all instances of longevity, is that of being born of healthy parents; another, of almost as universal application, is of being inured to daily labour, temperance, and simplicity of diet: for it is rather among the inferior ranks of mankind, than amongst the sons of ease and luxury that we shall find most numerous instances of longevity; not, unfrequently, amongst apparently the most unfavourable circumstances, as the old sexton of Peterborough, mentioned in *Fuller's Worthies*, who, notwithstanding his unpromising occupation among dead bodies, lived long enough to bury two crowned heads, and to survive two complete generations. The subsistence of old Parr, and Henry Jenkins consisted of the coarsest fare, as they sometimes lived by begging. Many common soldiers, tinkers, mendicants, and the inmates of workhouses have lived to extreme old age. The plain diet, and invigorating employments of country life, are acknowledged to be highly conducive to health and longevity, while the luxury and refinements of large cities are allowed to be equally destructive to the human species. From country villages and not from crowded cities, the greatest number of instances of longevity are drawn. It appears, from the London bills of mortality, during a period of thirty years,—from

1728 to 1758,—the number of deaths was 750,322, and that, in all this number only 242 persons had survived the hundredth year of their age.—*Fothergill on Longevity.*

Many instances are cited of men living in the ancient world more than a hundred years,—as, Hippocrates, physician of the island of Cos, aged 104 ; Democritus, the philosopher of Abdera, aged 109 ; Galen, physician of Pergamus, aged 140. In the earlier part of the christian era, Italy appears to have been highly favourable to the prolongation of human life, since we learn, from the taxing of the people in the reign of the Emperor Vespasian, Anno Domini 76, that there were found, in that part of Italy lying between the Appenine mountains and the river Po, one hundred and twenty-four persons who either equalled, or exceeded, one hundred years of age, namely, fifty-four of one hundred years each; fifty-seven of one hundred and ten; two of one hundred and twenty-five; four of one hundred and thirty; four of one hundred and thirty-six; and three of one hundred and forty years each. At the same time, in Parma, were three of one hundred and twenty, and two of one hundred and thirty years each. In Placentia, one of one hundred and thirty-one years. In

Faventia, one of one hundred and thirty-two; six of one hundred and ten; and four of one hundred and twenty years each. In Rimino, one—Marcus Aponius—of one hundred and fifty years. Extraordinary instances of long life occur in all climates,—from the frozen steppes of Russia to the sultry and pestilential swamps of Caracas; from the Orcades to the equator. The negro, even in a state of slavery, in the southern states of America and the West Indian islands, has been known to attain extreme old age, under what may be considered the most unfavourable circumstances. A few instances may suffice to prove the position. In 1790, in the parish of Elizabeth, in the island of Jamaica, died a negro woman named Cooba, at the age of one hundred and ten years. She was a slave, the property of the Honourable Thomas Chambers. Her memory was perfect to the last, and she could see to thread a needle until within a few months of her death. She saw four generations of her master's family. Samuel Pinnock, also a negro, of Kingston in Jamaica, died in 1796, at the age of one hundred and ten. Esmina Diamond, a negress of the same town, died in 1812, aged one hundred and thirty. Ann Wignell, of Port Royal, in Jamaica, died in the same year, aged one hundred and forty-six. She was

born in Africa, torn from her friends and kindred, and carried as a slave into the West Indies. Syphax Brown, a manumitted slave of Cumberland, United States, died in 1846, aged one hundred and fifteen. Mr. Lawson, in his travels through Carolina, in 1700, thus describes an old Indian woman whom he saw among the Tuscororas:—"We saw, at the Cassetta's cabin, the strangest spectacle of antiquity I ever knew, it being an old Indian squaw, that, had I been to have guess'd at her age, by her aspect, old Parr's head (the Welch Methusalem) was a face in swaddling cloths to hers. I made the strictest enquiry that was possible, and by what I could gather she was considerably above one hundred years old; notwithstanding, she smoked tobacco and eat her victuals to all appearance as heartily as one of eighteen." Captain Cespedes, of the Caraccas, died in 1789, aged one hundred and ten. He belonged to the militia of Pardo, and was esteemed a prodigy of that climate, where human life is seldom protracted to the extent of even sixty years. Jean Cayetan, of Tesontla, New Spain, South America, died in 1788, aged one hundred and thirty. A Spanish writer, Bartholomew Leonarda de Argensola, in his history of the discovery and conquest of the Molucas and Philippina islands, says, when speaking of

the island of Banda, “Men live in this island longer than in any other part of the world. The Dutch saw several who exceeded one hundred and thirty years of age.” In a list, published officially in Russia, of the number of deaths in 1811, there are five hundred and eighty-four instances of people who died in the various provinces of that vast empire at upwards of one hundred years old, viz.:—four hundred and sixty-seven above one hundred ; one hundred and thirteen above one hundred and five ; three of one hundred and forty ; and one of one hundred and fifty years. The remote and lonely Shetlands are not without their instances of longevity. Buchanan, in his History of Scotland, thus speaks of them : “The healthiness of these people appeared in one named Laurence, in our own time, who, after he was an hundred years old, married a wife, and when he was one hundred and forty used to fish with his skiff, even in a rough and tempestuous sea. He died only lately, not by the shock of any grievous disease, but merely by the infirmity and languishing of old age.”

Lord Bacon, in his History of Life and Death, quotes as a fact unquestioned, that a few years before he wrote, a morris dance was performed in Herefordshire, at the

May-games, by eight men, whose ages in the aggregate amounted to eight hundred years.

The following elegantly written remarks on the different periods of life are from the report of the Registrar General.—*Census, 1851.*

Every year of age from birth exhibits some appreciable change, and any subdivision is necessarily arbitrary to some extent ; but the *century of life* may be, for some purposes, conveniently subdivided, as it was by Wargentin in the first Swedish Census, into twenty periods of five years,—twenty lustres ; for others into ten decenniads ; and for others into five vicenniads,—each of four lustres, or of twenty years. We have used the latter division largely in the Report, and shall show that it is well characterized.

The first age, covering the first twenty years of life, extends over childhood, boyhood, and youth. It is the age of growth ; and it is the age of learning, for the greater number, in the beginning, on the mother's arms ; in the middle of the period, at school ; in the end, at the workshop : where, in succession, the manners, language, knowledge, and skill,—the traditional and hereditary acquisitions of mankind,—are transmitted to the new generation. Generous sentiments, passions,

enthusiasm, display themselves at the end, and crimes are committed by evil natures.

The second age, or vicenniad (20—40) of which *thirty* years is the central point, embraces the period of early manhood. Growth is completed; weight, stature, and strength are at their maximum. It is the athletic, poetic, inventive, beautiful age,—the prime of life.

It is the soldier's age. The apprentice becomes the journeyman; who attains, at the end, the highest mechanical skill, and earns the highest wages. Marriage is contracted, and the man hears the name of father from the lips of his children. In bad natures, and unfavourable circumstances, it is the age of crime, of passion,—of madness, which breaks out in its wildest forms,—as well as of wasting maladies.

In the third vicenniad (40—60), of which the middle point is *fifty years* we see men in the higher professions first attain eminence, the capital which has been expended in their education returns rapidly; their established character gives them the confidence of their fellow-men; experience and practice enable them to deal as proficients with the great interests and questions of the world. They see their children enter life. The edifices, of which the foundations were laid before, spring

up around them. The prudent, tried, skilful, inventive man now oftens becomes, in England, a master, and controls establishments in which he was once the clerk, the workman, the apprentice boy. It may be justly called the intellectual age, the legislative, the judicial age. The statesman speaks, and his voice reverberates over an attentive nation. But the passions and labours of life wear deep furrows ; the health of the workman is shaken in great cities, and he falls before their pestilences ; the heart and the brain are sometimes over-wrought; diseases acquire force, and the man easily falls their victim.

The fourth vicenniad (60—80), of which the year *seventy* is the centre, may be considered the laureate age of a complete life. The veteran retires from the camp, the workman from the workshop, the labourer from the field, where they have done their duty. The age of strength is over ; but as civilization advances, men are not now cast aside, but enter upon the legitimate rewards and honours of their accumulated services. The merchant has acquired riches ; the manufacturer has given his name to a lasting house of business ; the proprietor's improvements are visible in his lands and houses ; the physician, the judge, the bishop, discharge

the highest function of their respective professions ; the fruits of the prescient statesman's wise measures ripened under opposition are now gathered in by a grateful people. Integrity and wisdom in counsel are sealed by experience, and receive the recognition which envy can no longer gainsay. The father, as well in humble as in high life, who has wisely ruled his house, receives the homage of his sons at the head of new families ; the devoted mother is called by her children blessed : and upon the sovereign who has trod the paths of duty, righteousness, and greatness, among a free people, undying glory rests. As a good life in old age becomes something almost divine, so a bad life is then transformed into a "wrinkled eld" of almost supernatural malignity ; of which the designations evil eye, wizard, witch, the "old serpent, the devil," express the popular dread and abhorrence ;

"And that which should accompany old age—
As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends :"

the tyrant and hoary plotter of evil

"Must not look to have ; but in their stead,
Curses, not loud, but deep.

If the vitality rapidly decreases in the fourth age, the strength fails, the senses grow dull, the mind itself

decays, in the fifth vicenniad (80—100) : and then the colours of the world fade away : the forms of men are indistinctly seen in the dim twilight ; the voices of men are heard, but like inarticulate murmurs of the sea ; the sense of being, and the memories themselves of well spent years, are at last obliterated. The lamp of life is not broken, but is softly burnt out.

While little more confidence should be placed in the relations of the ages of men extending to centuries than in the hopes of the alchymists who sought elixirs, this last period appears to be as much a necessary part of the perfect life, according to the Divine plan, as the age of childhood and youth. It is the period of repose, after the labours, struggles, achievements, and glories of manhood are over. The grand climactic age,—the year of abdication,—differs in every individual—as the human structure varies infinitely ; but, by the nature of things, it should precede by many years the hour of dissolution ; for, if it is grateful to a nation to visit the places in which its great men have lived—to gaze on their monuments, and to follow their cars in pageants and processions to the tomb,—it is still more grateful to know that they are in the midst of us, and to view sometimes

the lineaments that are still more intimately associated with their immortality.

It has been observed by some writers on longevity, that moderate sized and well proportioned persons, have the greatest probability of attaining to extreme old age.

This view is fully borne out by facts ; yet this rule is not without exceptions, as Mary Jones, who died at Wem, in Shropshire, in 1773, at the age of one hundred years, was very deformed and lame, and only two feet, eight inches in height ;—while James Mac Donald, who died near Cork, in Ireland, August 20th, 1760, at the age of one hundred and seventeen, was seven feet six inches in height.

Longevity is constitutional ; as no man can live to an advanced age who brings the seeds of disease into the world with him, and who has not, also, great vigour of heart, lungs, stomach, and muscles. The principal index of great longevity, is an ample development of the vital apparatus, or a capacious chest ; and, of course, large lungs, heart, stomach, and vital organs, with a proportionally smaller head. A spare, wrinkled, muscular temperament, — which may be known by great distinctness of the muscles, bones, furrows, and projections ; prominence of nose, eye-brows, chin, &c., —

also foretokens tenacity of life.—*Foster, on Hereditary Descent.*

Longevity is not unfrequently hereditary, as numerous instances can be given of long lived persons in one family. Besides those mentioned in the following pages, we give a few cases in point. Thomas Parr lived to be one hundred and fifty-two years old, and a son, one hundred and nine, a grandson, one hundred and forty-three, and Robert Parr, a great grandson, died September 21st, 1757, aged one hundred and twenty-four.

The “Library of Health,” for 1840, contains the following:—“We were personally acquainted with the late Donald Mc Donald, of quarrelsome memory, who was sent to the House of Correction, for a street brawl, when about one hundred and five years old. When one hundred and six, he enjoyed excellent health. His father lived to be one hundred and thirty-seven, and no one knows when he would have died, had he not been accidentally killed. Mrs. Jane Simmons, died in London, in 1792, aged one hundred and nineteen years. She left two daughters, each one hundred years old.

Why should not longevity be hereditary as well as consumption and premature death?

One fact is certain, and significant to those whom it

concerns, no kings, nobles, poets, historians, philosophers, deep thinkers, or able writers, have ever rounded the century. Not many mariners, or sea-faring men attain to extreme old age, though instances sparingly occur. Lawyers appear to die before they become centenarians. No great military commander appears (at least in modern times) to have attained to remarkable old age, most of them dying young, while numbers of common soldiers have lived a century or more. The easily satisfied, unambitious, unthinking, cheerful, contented being whom no cares annoy, and no troubles reach, appears to be the choice and favourite individual for long life. M. Grellier says, "The cheerful and contented are certainly more likely to enjoy good health and long life, than persons of irritable and fretful dispositions ; therefore, whatever tends to promote good humour and innocent hilarity, must have a beneficial influence in this respect ; and persons whose attention is much engaged on serious subjects, should endeavour to preserve a relish for cheerful recreations." Of the great mass of centenarians it can only be said as of the man in the "common lot,"

"Once, in the flight of ages past,
There lived a man, and who was he ?
Mortal ! however thy lot be cast,
That man resembled thee !"

* * * * *

“ The annals of the human race,
Their ruins, since the world began,
Of him afford no other trace,
Than this,—‘ There lived a man ! ’ ”

Comparatively speaking, very few of them have performed actions worthy of record ; others perform great deeds in a short life ; they are distinguished for their length of life, and for that alone ; men think about them, talk about them, write about them, because they lived long,—not that they lived well. And what wonder, since life is a subject of great importance to all ; all kinds of means are employed to preserve it, and even to lengthen it ; in short, to live long appears to be the great aim and object of all. Some have even gone so far as to attempt a renewal of youth ; ancient fable relates that by the magical arts of Medea, Æson was changed from an old into a young man : the story is told in the seventh book of Ovid’s Metamorphoses.

“ His feeble frame resumes a youthful air,
A glossy brown his hoary beard and hair.
The meagre paleness from his aspect fled,
And in its room sprang up a florid red ;
Through all his limbs a youthful vigour flies,
His emptied art’ries swell with fresh supplies :
Gazing spectators scarce believe their eyes.
But Æson is the most surprised to find,
A happy change in body and in mind ;
In sense and constitution, the same man,
As when his fortieth active year began.”

In the year 1510, Ponce de Leon, a Spanish captain, having heard from the Indians of Cuba, of an island, where, they asserted, was a spring whose waters had the virtue of restoring youth to the aged, and vigour to the decrepit : Ponce thought this fountain would be an inexhaustible source of revenue to him, as he could levy a tax upon all who derived benefit from its influence. He fitted out two ships and went in search of it through the group of islands called the Lucayos. Wherever he stopped, he drank of all the running streams and standing pools, whether their waters were fresh or stagnant, that he might not miss the famous spring. He enquired of all the natives he met, where he could find the wondrous *Fountain of Youth*. It is hardly necessary to say that he did not find it ; he, however, discovered the mainland of Florida, so that his voyage was not quite in vain.

In the middle ages the alchymical philosophers sought to find “The Elixir of Life,” which was to renew youth, cure wounds and diseases of all kinds, and, in short, render man immortal. The old romances are full of stories of this kind, which are most unmercifully treated by Cervantes in Don Quixote, where he makes that redoubted knight compound the “balsam of Fierabras,”

“And he that has it need not fear death, nor so much as think of dying by any wound. And therefore, when I shall have made it, and given it you, all you will have to do is, when you see me in some battle cleft asunder (as it frequently happens), to take up fair and softly that part of my body which shall fall to the ground, and, with the greatest nicety, before the blood is congealed, place it upon the other half that shall remain in the saddle, taking especial care to make them tally exactly. Then must you immediately give me to drink only two draughts of the balsam aforesaid, and then you will see me become sounder than any apple.”

In the “Turkish Spy,” Vol. I. pp. 266-7 is an amusing account of old age and the elixir of life: we give an extract.

“ TO BEDREDIN, SUPERIOR OF THE DERVISHES
OF COGNI, IN NATOLIA.”

“ Thy great age does not astonish me, seeing thy father, who is yet alive, is 107 years old, and thou art not above 82, which makes me hope to see a great while yet both one and the other, draw down, by their prayers, and merit of their good actions, the blessing of Heaven on the glorious empire of the Ottoman Court, to whom all the empires and monarchies of the world ought to

submit." "The christians say, when God gave them the commandments, he promised long life to such only who perfectly honoured those, who, under God, brought them into the light. If this be true, as 'tis very likely, 'tis not to be doubted, but that a *long life* is the recompence which God gives those who live well: and the Nazarenes, who are criticks, affirm,— That sin alone is the cause that men do not live so long as they did before the deluge, for then they remained such a while in life, as would tempt one to think they were to have been immortal. They say that after the deluge, God changed the nature of man; and instead of that great number of years, which made up the course of so long a life, they cannot live, at farthest, above 120 years, and that there are few which arrive to 80, and whatever is beyond this is misery and torment, or a kind of senselessness, which makes men like beasts.

"I know few people but what are agreed, one may cure or mitigate the inconveniences which happen to us; but few are of opinion that life can be lengthened; yet, if this is possible, we may then believe a story, which is believed here, and which happened the past year in Paris.

"An ancient man went to a *Dervise* of this great town, and thus accosted him: 'I am come, Reverend Father,

to know of you, whether I may, in good conscience, determine to live no longer, being quite weary of living. I have, already, arrived to the 129th year of my age, by means of a liquor, which chemistry has taught me, whereby I did scarce perceive, from anything I felt, that I was going down ; yet, however, this long life appears at present, to me irksome and intolerable. My blood is so purified in my veins, that I have remained without any of those passions whereunto mankind are so generally subject. My taste serves me no longer to discover the delicacy of meats. My ears, although they be not deaf, yet will not let me distinguish true harmony, from what is only a confusion of sounds. Mine eyes are open to see, but are not cheered with any object. My faculty of smelling is struck with scents, yet they make no impression on it. I touch, but I feel not what I touch ; and I touch all things indifferently. Mine heart is no longer sensible, nor affected with tenderness and passion for my friends. Bile, in me, has no longer its usual heat. Joy and sorrow, anger, desire of having, hope and hatred, are extinguished in me ; whereby I am become insensible in conserving, if I may so say, all my senses. I am resolved, therefore, to let myself die, provided you can assure me I may do it without sin ; for,

should I remain two days without taking this precious elixir, I am certain I should soon expire, and so be delivered from the vexation that overwhelms me.' 'Tis said that the dervise answered this philosopher,—'That he might not desire death; but, on the contrary, preserve his life; and, supposing he made use of no secret of magick to prolong his days, he should believe that the marvellous potion, of which he had found the secret by his study and travel, was a present from heaven: that 'tis true he would be rid of a troublesome life, but he could not procure the end of it without a crime; and that he was obliged to preserve it, to suffer with greater submission the pains he complained of, which could not be comparable to the pleasures he had received, by enjoying the gift which God had bestowed on him.'

“ Paris, 15th of the 1st Moon
of the year 1641.”

As gold always bore the highest value amongst the metals, the alchymists, from a ridiculous analogy, concluded that it must surpass all other things in the preservation of health, and the cure of diseases; and all their efforts were directed to the art of dissolving it, so as to render it *potable*, and to prevent it from again being converted into metal. The common people, in

some countries, particularly Italy, Germany, and France, oftentimes denied themselves the common necessities of life, to save as much as would purchase a few drops of the tincture of gold, which was offered for sale by some superstitious, or fraudulent, chemist : and so thoroughly persuaded were they of the efficacy of this remedy, that it afforded them, in every instance, the most confident, and only hope of recovery. These beneficial effects were positively promised ; but were looked for in vain. All subduing death would not submit to be bribed with gold, and disease refused to hold any intercourse with that powerful deity, who presides over the industry and commerce of all nations.—*Thaumaturgia : or, Elucidations of the Marvellous*, p. 116.

The successors of these emperors still continue to live on the *love of life*, so strongly implanted in the heart of man, as is evident from the number of nostrums daily thrust before the public, in the shape of *Life Pills*, and all that genus of bold impositions.

The number of centenarians existing at one time in the world is very small, compared with the mass of the population,—not averaging more than thirteen or fourteen in a million, or one in every seven hundred thousand inhabitants ; varying much, however, according as

the locality is favourable to health, or otherwise ; a fact of which our own county affords sufficient evidence. At the census of 1851, the population of all Yorkshire was returned at one million seven hundred and eighty-nine thousand and forty-seven : of whom twelve only were said to be one hundred years of age ; and these were distributed in the following unequal manner, relative to the population amongst whom they dwelt,—

West Riding, population, 1,340,051, centenarians, 2.

East do. do. 254,352, do. 4.

North do. do. 194,644, do. 6.

These figures, more strongly than any language, point out the localities most favourable to longevity, shewing that the beautiful valleys and breezy downs of the north are far more favourable to health and long life, than the close, smoky, manufacturing towns of the west. Of these twelve aged people, five were males, and seven females : of the males, one had never been married, and the others were widowers ; the seven females were all widows : of seven of the twelve no occupation is specified ; of the others, two were paupers, one a farm servant, one a farmer, and one dependent on relatives : none of them are returned as of independent means, or belonging to the upper ranks of life. At the same time

the west-riding had its proportion of persons aged ninety-five, and upwards, as below—

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-----|----------|-----|------|-----------|
| West Riding, | males, | 14, | females, | 29, | =43) | Total 75. |
| East | do. | 3, | do. | 7, | =10 | |
| North | do. | 7, | do. | 15, | =22) | |

Of ninety years and upwards, the numbers were respectively—

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-----|----------|-----|-------|------------|
| West Riding, | males, | 88, | females, | 142 | =230) | Total 438. |
| East | do. | 31, | do. | 52 | = 83 | |
| North | do. | 43, | do. | 82 | =125) | |

These numbers prove that there existed at that time in Yorkshire five hundred and twenty-five persons more than ninety years of age.

At the same time in all England and Wales there were two hundred and fifteen, aged one hundred years and upwards, of whom seventy-eight were males, and one hundred and thirty-seven females (population, 20,959,477); twenty-seven of these were located in London, which appears a very great number to exist amidst the noxious effluvia and dense fogs of that overgrown metropolis; while, singular to relate, the rural part of Middlesex, the counties of Herts, Bucks, Oxon, Northampton, Bedford, and Cambridge, with their fine, mild climate, and agrestic population, had only six Centenarians; while Durham,

bleak and moist, employing a great mass of its population in coal mines, had nine, Northumberland fourteen, Cumberland three, while the valleys, and mountains of Westmoreland, did not yield one single individual of the age of one hundred. Scotland at that time had one hundred and three persons aged a century or upwards, of whom thirty two were males and seventy-one females.

Of the occupations of those aged pilgrims on life's weary road it is necessary to say a few words, as, it is probable that their longevity is partly owing to their calling or employment. Of the one hundred and thirty-seven females in England and Wales exceeding one hundred years, fourteen are annuitants, a class of persons proverbial for long life, sixty-nine are widows, with no specified occupation; eleven are paupers, twenty-four follow some business or calling; and only one is said to be of independent means. Of the seventy-eight males eleven are agricultural labourers, seven farmers, six soldiers or pensioners, nine paupers, seven labourers, two annuitants, and two gentlemen; the others, with the exception of one, a lunatic, follow some manual calling, of whom three are shoemakers. From the above authentic facts it is quite evident that a life of ease and

plenty does not at all contribute to longevity. In every work we have seen, where length of life forms any part of the subject, rules for diet, and exercise are laid down by which those who follow them may attain to almost any age, whereas it is quite obvious that such rules can only be useful to the idle, and the rich, who can eat, drink, and amuse themselves at will, and who it is quite certain will not follow a life of temperance, and rough manual exercise for the sake of living to extreme old age. On the contrary, the poor, who are compelled by necessity to a life of hardship and toil, and generally of temperance too, enjoy good health, and live to a great age.

The desire of longevity appears to be inherent in all animated nature, and particularly in the human race ; it is intimately cherished by us, through the whole duration of our existence, and is frequently supported and strengthened, not only by justifiable means, but also by various kinds of collusion. Living in an age when every branch of human knowledge is reduced to popular systems ; when the vigils of reason are hallowed at the shrine of experiment and observation ; though we behold in the immense variety of things, the utter useless-

ness of attempting to renovate a shattered constitution, or of improving a sound one to last beyond a certain period ; we nevertheless observe that in the inconceivable waste of elementary particles there prevails the strictest economy. Nothing is produced in vain, nothing consumed without a cause. We clearly perceive that all nature is united by indissoluble ties, that every individual thing exists for the sake of another, and that no one can subsist without its concomitant. Hence we conclude, that man himself is not an insulated being, but a necessary link in the great chain which connects the universe. Nature is our safest guide, and she will be so with greater certainty, as we become better acquainted with her operations ; especially with respect to those particulars which more nearly concern our physical existence. Thus a source of many, and very extensive advantages will be opened ; thus, we shall reach our original destination—namely, that of living long, and in the enjoyment of sound health, to which if purity of morals be added, the best hopes may be entertained of a happy state, in a future world, where its inhabitants never die.

YORKSHIRE LONGEVITY.

A

ADDY, MRS., of Tinsley Toll-bar, near Rotherham, died in 1809, aged 101 years. She retained the complete use of her faculties to the last, though somewhat infirm in her limbs ; her sight continued so perfect that she was able to read a small print bible without spectacles. Her mother lived to the age of 103 years.

ALLASON, WILLIAM, Governor of Scarborough Spaw, died in 1775, at the age of 103, in possession of all his faculties. His attainment to extreme old age, without its usual attendant infirmities was the more singular as he was far from living temperately. His portrait is in possession of a friend in Scarborough, with this inscription—"The picture of William Allason, Governor of the Spaw, taken in 1760, then 88 years of age." Whenever he was questioned respecting his regimen, he usually replied that he always lived well, and that the Spaw water was his sovereign remedy.

ALLISON, MARY, of Thorlby, in the parish of Skipton, died in 1668, aged 108 years. She was able to work at her spinning-wheel, until within two years of her decease.

ALLANBY, WIDOW, of Thoralby, died February 8th, 1665, aged 111 years.

ATKINSON, ALICE, of the City of York, died in 1794, aged 109.

AIRTON, MARY, of Horsforth, near Leeds, died in 1809, aged 105.

AMBLER, PETER, of Shelf, near Halifax, died 3rd December, 1708, aged 108.

ANDREWS, ANN, of Sheffield, died in 1818, aged 100.

ARMSTRONG, ANN, of ALDBROUGH, near Richmond, died in April, 1766, aged 107, to which age she had lived in a state of celibacy.

ARTON, MRS., of Potternewton, near Leeds, died in 1805, aged 105.

ASKHAM, MRS., of the City of York, died in 1791, aged 101.

ATKINS, MRS. JANE, died April 17th, 1761, aged 100. She was buried in the church of Great Givendale, near Pocklington, where a monumental inscription attests the fact of her uncommon age.

ATKINSON, ALICE, spinster, of Settle, died in 1808, aged 97. She was a member of the Society of Friends, and much distinguished among that body for her activity, intelligence, and generally exemplary conduct.

ASKRIGG, a small town in Wensleydale, is noted for the beauty of its scenery, and the salubrity of its air, as well as the general longevity of its inhabitants, of which a remarkable instance occurred in the twelve months between August, 1858, and 1859; during which period died,—Anthony Story, aged 88 years and 3 months; James Harker, 95 years and 5 months; Mrs. Jane Metcalfe, 99 years and 4 months; and William Thompson, 89 years and 6 months, giving an average of nearly 93 years each, or a total of 371 years.

Some seasons appear particularly fatal to long lived persons, the above case may be cited as an instance; another, not less remarkable, happened in this county in September, 1859, when, on Sunday, September 10th, died at Arksey, near Doncaster, in her 99th year, Sarah, wife of James Lillyman, Esq. On Monday, the 11th, in his 95th year, Mr. John Thackray, of Weardley, near Harewood, who had been for upwards of 60 years a gardener at Harewood House. And, on the same day,

at Ripon, aged 96, Elizabeth, widow of Edward Greaves, farmer, Clotherholme, near that City.

AVISON, MATTHIAS, of Kirkby Misperton, near Malton, died in 1822, aged 111.

B

BARTLEMER, MARGARET, of Kirkstall, near Leeds, died in 1766, aged upwards of 102. She retained her faculties to the last.

BARNARD, THOMAS, of Leeds, died in 1698, aged 103.

BARNARD, GRACE, of Leeds, died in 1804, aged 101.

BAILEY, MICHAEL, of Sherburn, died in June, 1808, aged 107. He was the *original* of the celebrated painting called “The Woodman.” He was abstemious and regular in his habits, and worked as a day labourer until he was more than 100 years of age.

BAMBLES, MRS., of Whitby, died in 1812, aged 94 years. She lived in the same house with two sisters, one older, the other younger than herself, both of whom

As Yorkshire Longevity is our theme, we cannot omit the following remarkable instance: Died, in April, 1835, “Old Adam,” a donkey, the property of Mr. Carr, of Keighley. It was in the Carr’s family above eighty years, and was fourteen years old when they bought it; so this venerable specimen of assinine longevity departed this life upwards of ninety-five years of age.

were alive at the time of her decease. The eldest was an unmarried lady, who had great vivacity of spirits, and frequently distinguished herself from her sisters, both of whom were widows, by the epithet of the “young maid.”

BATEMAN, MRS., of Aldborough, near Hull, died in 1802, aged 100.

BAYNE, JOHN, of Limley, near Middlesmoor, died November, 1802, aged 98.

BEAN, JOHN, of Middlethorpe, near York, died in 1700, aged 107.

BEILBY, MARY, of Malton, died in February, 1767, aged 107.

BEACHILL, JAMES, of Monk-Fryston, died in 1817, aged 103.

BINNS, MRS., of Ripon, died in 1796, aged 96. To the end of her life she could see to read small print without the aid of spectacles.

BIRKHEAD, WILLIAM, of Brook-house, near Cleckheaton, died in 1797, aged 100.

BLAKE, JANE, of Leeds, died in 1763, aged 114.

BRADBURY, MARY, of Sheffield, died in 1739, aged 105.

BROOK, ROGER, of Halifax, died October 11th. 1568, aged 133.

BRIGNELL, THOMAS, of Whitby, died in 1796, aged 96. He was for many years an eminent whitesmith and mechanician, and was well known in most of the ports of England, especially in those trading to the Baltic and Greenland seas, for the excellence of his screws and harpoons. Along with Mr. Wilson, another mechanic of Whitby, he appears to have constructed the first locomotive carriage, but on what principle we have no information. The invention, however, came to nothing, probably it was too much in advance of the age in which it was produced.

BUTTERFIELD, ROBERT, of Halifax, died in December, 1781, aged 102. From very humble beginnings, by 40 years industry as a wool-stapler, he acquired a fortune of £40,000, which he employed extensively in works of charity and beneficence.

BOURN, RALPH, of West Tanfield, near Ripon, died in 1728, aged 113. An inscription on a stone in the south porch of the church perpetuates his memory.

BULKELEY, —. On the 2nd of July, 1744, is recorded the birth of a son to Mr. Arthur Bulkley. The child's baptism is remarkable from these circumstances,

—the infant's godfathers by proxy, were Edward Downs, Esq., of Worth, in Cheshire, his great great great great uncle; Dr. Ashton, master of Jesus' College, Cambridge, and his brother, Mr. Joseph Ashton, of Surrey street, in the Strand, his great great great uncles. The godmothers by their proxies, were Mrs. Elizabeth Wood, of Barnsley, Yorkshire, his great great great great aunt; Mrs. Jane Wainwright, of Middlewood Hall, Yorkshire, his great great grandmother, and Mrs. Dorothy Green, of the same place, his great grandmother. It was observed of Mrs. Wainwright, who was then 89 years of age, that she could properly say,—*Rise daughter, go to thy daughter, for thy daughter's daughter has a son!*

C

CATTON, MRS. ANN, of Hungate, York, died in 1814, aged 102. She was a poor, but very industrious woman, and possessed to the last a remarkably retentive memory, with so much bodily health and strength, as to be able to walk about by herself till within a week of her decease.

CARNALL, ANN, of Sheffield, died in 1817, aged 100.

CATEBY, VALENTINE, of Preston, near Hull, died in 1782, aged 116. He went to sea in his eighteenth year, and continued a sailor thirty-six years; he then commenced

farming, which occupation he followed for thirty-six years more, when he retired from business. His diet, for the last twenty years of his life, was strictly confined to milk and biscuit. His mental faculties were quite composed, and perfect up to the close of his long life.

CATTERSON. MRS., of Silsden Moor, near Skipton, in Craven, relict of Sylvester Catterson, of Addingham, died in April, 1858, aged 102. In her youth she was a leader of fashion in her neighbourhood. She retained the use of her faculties to the last.

CARTER, MATTHEW, of Thornbrough, near Thirsk, died in November, 1666, aged 112. He was married at the age of 54. His widow survived him 6 years; dying 64 years after her marriage.

CHAPEL, SARAH, of Whitley, died in 1766, aged 104.

CHILDERS, HENRY, of Bramham, died in 1809, aged 102.

COCKER, ANN, of Meanwood, near Leeds, died in 1820, aged 100.

COULSON, RALPH, of Grimstone, died in 1771, aged 107.

COUSEN, MARY, of Wakefield, died in 1791, aged 103.

COULTER, MRS., of Hovingham, died in 1772, aged 103.

COOK, ROBERT, of Clifton, died April 28th, 1776, aged 107.

CORNER, MRS. ANN, widow, of Aldbrough, died in 1817, aged 105.

CONGREVE, WILLIAM, of Sheffield, died in 1754, aged 111.

CONSITT, FRANCIS, of Burythorpe, near Malton, died in 1796, at the age of 150. He was maintained by the parish above sixty years, and retained his senses to the last.

“Drooping and burthen'd with a weight of years,
What venerable ruin man appears!

How worthy pity, love, respect, and grief—
He claims protection—he compels *relief*.”

CRABBE.

COWGILL, JOHN, of Ripley, died in 1825, aged 104. He was descended from a family noted for longevity, his father and grandfather both having attained to extreme old age. He was a field labourer, hale and robust to the last, enjoying excellent health, and scarcely had a day's illness during the whole of his long life; even at the last the wheels of life appeared to come to a stand gently, and he passed away without any violent shock, like one going to sleep when his work was done. His memory

was perfect to the last, and he was possessed of a fund of anecdote, and loved to narrate the doings of his youth. His widow, who survived him, was upwards of 90 at the time of her decease.

CRAVEN, PHILIP, of old Malton, a day labourer, died in 1844, aged 104.

CALVERT, MICHAEL, of Knaresbrough, died December 3rd, 1862, in the 92nd year of his age. He was for many years a druggist in that town, and author of a "History of Knaresbrough," and other works.

D

DAWSON, MRS., widow, of Thwing, in the East Riding, died in 1809, aged 107. She manifested no important signs of declining faculties, until within one week of her decease.

DAWSON, MRS., of Wakefield, died in 1798, aged 101.

DARNBROUGH, WILLIAM, for 40 years sexton at Hartwith Chapel, near Ripley, died October 17th, 1846, aged 100.* He used to boast, that in his youth, the fairies were very numerous on the moors around Hartwith, but most of them had disappeared before he died, which

* An upright headstone, near the middle of the burial ground attached to Hartwith Chapel, bears the following inscription: "In memory of William Darnbrough, who, for the last forty years of

was matter of great regret to him. He used to take great delight in describing their beautiful appearance, when dancing on the moors, on moonlight nights.

“ Such airy beings awe the untutor’d swain.”

DEMAINE, JOHN, a small farmer, at West End, in the parish of Fewston, near Otley, died in 1820, aged 110. In his youth he was a tall, active man, and a remarkably swift runner. The great amusement of his life was following the hounds, which he pursued on foot, with his accustomed energy, till within the last five years of his life. He was never known to change his dress after those days of severe exercise, though frequently drenched

his life, was the Sexton of this Chapel. He died October 3rd, 1846, in the one hundredth year of his age.

‘Thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace ; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.’—Genesis, xx. 15.

“ The graves around, for many a year,
Were dug by him who slumbers here,—
Till, worn with age, he dropped his spade,
And in this dust his bones were laid.
As he now, moulderling, shares the doom
Of those he buried in the tomb ;
So shall he, too, with them arise,
To share the judgment of the skies.”

An examination of the Pateley Bridge Church Registers revealed the fact that Darnbrough was one hundred and two years of age.

Another stone, in the same burial ground, commemorates Francis Robinson, of Hartwith, who died October 28th, 1852, aged ninety-four.

with rain ; nor did he ever experience a days confinement from illness during the whole of his long life. At the age of ninety-seven, he could mow an acre of grass in one day—a task sufficient for most young men. After he had attained his 100th year, he complained that he felt he was growing old, as could not leap the walls, hedges and ditches, as he used to do. After struggling against the growing infirmities of age, which impeded his favourite, and long indulged amusement, at the age of 105, he entirely gave up the sport, and acknowledged that he had become an old man. He was quick of sight and hearing to the last.

“ When his weak hand grew palsied, and his eye,
Dark with the mists of age, it was his time to die.”

DEANE, SARAH, of Horsforth, near Leeds, died in 1809, aged 102.

DELINÉ, PETER, Esq., of Leeds, died in 1773, aged 104.

DIXON, JANE, widow, of Scrayingham, died in 1854, aged 103. She retained full command of all her faculties till within a few months of her decease ; her sight in particular, was so perfect, that she could see to read type of the ordinary size, without the aid of glasses, up to the last hour of her life.

DOBSON, THOMAS, of Hatfield, died in 1766, aged 139. He was eminent as an agriculturist. At the time of his death he left a family of three sons and seven daughters, all married, and living in that neighbourhood, who, together with their children and grandchildren, to the number of ninety-one, attended his funeral.

DODSWORTH, MARY, of Kirkdale, died July 16th, 1797, in the 102nd year of her age. There is an inscription to her memory in the north aisle of the parish church, of this place.

DODSWORTH, MARGARET, wife of Robert Dodsworth, Esq., of Barton, in the North Riding. She lived in three centuries, being born, in 1598, and dying in 1704, aged 105. After the death of her first husband, she married Colonel Henry Chaytor, the loyal and gallant defender of Bolton Castle, in Wensleydale, for the king, against the forces of the Parliament, during the civil wars of the 17th century. She made her will a few months before her death, stating that she was "in health of body, and of sound, good, and perfect memory;" and signs by a mark of three strokes |||. In the church at Barton, is a monument to the memory of herself, her first husband and son.

DUNCOMBE, THOMAS, of Beverley, lime burner, died in 1814, aged 114. He had been married to five wives.

E

ELSTOFF, MR., of Ledstone, died in 1756, aged 114.

ESH, MRS., of Burton Agnes, died in 1763, aged 100. She appeared to have a presentiment that her death was approaching, and spent the last few days of her life in great tranquility, preparing every thing necessary for her funeral.

“ Faint as the rainbow melts to common air
In tints scarce visible, so faintly falls
On the mind’s eye some image of the future.”

ELLERTON, SIMEON, of Craike, near Easingwold, died in 1799, aged 104. This man, in his day, was a noted pedestrian, and, before the establishment of regular *posts*, was frequently employed in walking commissions from the northern counties to London, and other places, which he executed with singular fidelity and despatch. He lived in a neat stone cottage of his own erecting; and, what is remarkable, he literally carried his house upon his head; it being his constant practice to bring back with him from every journey he undertook, some suitable

stone, or other material for his purpose; and which, not unfrequently, he carried 40 or 50 miles on his head.

ELLIS, FRANCIS, mariner, of Whitby, died in 1771, aged 95; within a few days, also, died Mary, his wife, aged 93.

Singular instances sometimes occur of a man and his wife dying almost at the same time, after having lived a long time together: we give one or two by way of variety.—Charles Cotterell, of Philadelphia, United States, died in 1761, aged 120, and within four hours of his decease, his wife also died, aged 115; they had lived together in peace and unity for 98 years.—William Hudson, and Dinah his wife, of Sand Hutton, near Thirsk, died March 5th, 1839, one in the morning the other in the evening, aged, respectively, 83 and 85 years.

F

FENTHAM, WILLIAM, of Ripon, farmer, died in 1799, aged 100.

FENTIMAN, MR., of Bolton Abbey, in Craven, died in 1801, aged 101. Throughout his long life he had enjoyed an almost uninterrupted state of good health.

FRITH, MARY, of Marsden, in the parish of Almondbury, died in 1784, aged 111.

FRITH, JOHN, of Sowerby, near Halifax, died in 1757, aged 107. He left seven sons and daughters living ; the eldest of whom was 87, and the youngest 69 years of age.

FINNEY, WILLIAM, of Ripon, died February 13th, 1813, aged 103. An inscription, in the nave of Ripon Minster records this instance of longevity.*

Foss, WIDOW, of Morley, died in 1721, aged 114.

FOSTER, ELIZABETH, of Stainburn, near Otley, died in 1830, aged 101.

FRANK, MR., of Pontefract, died in 1782, aged 100.

FURNISH, WILLIAM, for many years an innkeeper in the City of York, died in 1811, aged 100.

G

GARBUTT, JANE, widow, of Welbury, near Northallerton, died in 1856, aged 110. She had been twice married, both her husbands being sailors during the old war. For some years, during the latter part of her life, she was maintained by the parish ; she, however, had a cottage to herself, and the parish officers, with laudable

* In Ripon Minster, and the burial ground attached thereto, are about 750 monumental inscriptions, of which only two record the death of persons who attained to the age of 100.

humanity, engaged a female to attend to her wants. Her frame had shrunk into a very small compass ; she was comparatively free from pain, retaining all her faculties, and enjoying a pipe of tobacco to the last. According to her own statement, she “had burned the fragrant weed” nearly one hundred years, which will go far to prove if it be a poison, it is a slow one indeed. She always sat upright on her chair, rarely resting against the back, and, only the Saturday before her death, walked steadily across the floor of her cottage.

GARFORTH, DENNIS, of Keighley, died in 1625, aged 103.

GARRAUD, MRS., widow, of Oulton, near Leeds, died in 1805, aged 100. This venerable lady, with her husband and family, resided at Lisbon, at the period of the dreadful earthquake, which, in 1775, nearly depopulated that city ; in which frightful catastrophe they lost the greatest part of their property. She had full possession of all her faculties to the last, and, by an easy transition, she passed from life to death on the very day she had completed her 100th year.

“ Taught, half by reason, half by mere decay,
To welcome death—and calmly pass away.”

GLENTON, HELEN, of Tunstall, near Catterick, died in 1808, aged 107.

GLENTON, DINAH, of Richmond, died in 1811, aged 104.

GIBSON, WILLIAM, of Hutton Bushell, near Scarborough, died in 1796, aged 102.

GOMERSALL, MARY, of Wakefield, died in March, 1763, aged 107. She was mother to fourteen children, grandmother to thirty-three, great grandmother to eighty-four, great great grandmother to twenty-five—in all, one hundred and fifty-six descendants. This is a respectable number, but nothing to what is said to have been the family of Dennis Coorobee, of Ballindangan, Ireland, who died in 1805, aged 117 : who, during his lifetime, had seven wives, forty-eight children, two hundred and thirty-six grandchildren, nine hundred and forty-four great grandchildren, and twenty-five great great grandchildren, in all, one thousand two hundred and fifty-three.

GRAVE, MARY, an inmate of Rothwell workhouse, near Leeds, died in 1797, aged 96. She could read, knit, and sew, without glasses, and retained the use of her faculties, little impaired, nearly to the end of her life.

GRAY, MRS., widow, Sheffield, died in 1843, aged 109.

GREEN, ANN, a pauper of the parish of Sprotborough, but a native of Kirk-heaton, died March 6th, 1791, aged 118.

GRAY, ANN, of Shipton, near Market Weighton, died in 1797, aged 100. She earned her own independent living, by hard work, till within a very few years of her decease.

GOLDEN, MRS, widow, of Hilton, in Cleveland, died in 1802, aged 112. She retained the complete command of all her faculties, up to the latest period of her life, and, even in extreme old age, she was possessed of uncommon dexterity in carding wool, of which she used to boast that she could card more in one day than any other woman could spin.

GUNSTON, SARAH, of the parish of St. Giles, in the suburbs of the City of York, died in 1792, aged 103. She had been a widow, at the time of her decease, more than half a century.

GUNBY, MRS. CAROLINE, died at Double Bridges, near Thorne, July 20th, 1829, in the 103rd year of her age.

H

HALL, MARY, sextoness, of Bishophill, in the City of York, died in 1759, aged 105. She walked about, and

retained her senses, until within three days of her death.

HARPER, JOHN, of Askwith, near Otley, died in 1700, aged 100.

HARRISON, MRS., widow, of Bacup, died in 1819, aged 108.

HARRISON, CATHERINE, of Thirsk, died March 8th, 1795, aged 100.

HARRISON, ELIZABETH, buried at Kirkby Moorside, in 1719, aged 100.

HARWICK, WILLIAM, of Leeds, died in May, 1772, aged 110.

HALMSHAW, MARY, of Wakefield, died in 1791, aged 102. She had been a widow more than fifty years. Such was her general good state of health, combined with great activity, that, when in her seventy-seventh year, she walked from Wakefield to London, a distance of 180 miles, and returned, as she went, on foot. She retained all her faculties almost unimpaired to the last.

HARTOP, JONATHAN, of the village of Aldborough, near Boroughbridge, died in 1791, aged 138. His parents both perished by the plague, in their house in the Minories, and he perfectly well remembered the great fire of London, in 1666. He was short in stature, had

been married five times, and left seven children, twenty-six grandchildren, seventy-four great grandchildren, and one hundred and forty great great grandchildren. He could see to the last to read without spectacles, and play at cribbage, of which game he was passionately fond, keeping his own account, with the most perfect recollection of numbers. On Christmas day, 1789, he walked nine miles to dine with one of his great grandchildren. He remembered the person of Charles II.; and once travelled from London, to York, with the facetious Killigrew. He was always sparing in his diet, and his only beverage was milk. His disposition was cheerful, and, under every circumstance, however adverse, he seemed to enjoy an uninterrupted flow of good spirits. The third wife of this extraordinary man was stated to be an illegitimate daughter of the Lord Protector Cromwell, who gave her a marriage portion of about £500. He possessed a fine portrait of Cromwell, by Cooper, for which Mr. Holles offered him £300, which was refused. Mr. Hartop, was personally intimate with the poet Milton, and, shortly after the restoration, lent him £50, which the bard returned him, though not without difficulty, as his circumstances then were at a very low ebb. Mr. Hartop would have declined receiving back the loan,

but the independent spirit of the poet would not allow him to accept the offer, and he sent the money accompanied with a somewhat indignant letter at the proposal, which document was found among the papers of the venerable patriarch after his decease.

HALTON, ALICE, of Thirsk, died in 1814, aged 105. She was mother of twelve children, and lived to see the fifth generation of her descendants.

HANSON, HANNAH, of Castle Bolton, in Wensleydale, died January 14th, 1812, aged 105. A stone, in Redmire chapel yard, commemorates this instance of longevity.

HATFIELD, ANN, of Tinsley, near Sheffield, died in 1770, aged 105.

HAYTON, BETTY, now living (1864,) with her third husband, in hospital yard Walmgate, York, in her 107th year. She has a daughter living with her aged 80 years.

HIRST, WILLIAM, a farm labourer, of Micklefield, near Aberford, died in 1853, aged 107. He was born within a few miles of Micklefield, where he resided for eighty years. He followed his employment, as a farm labourer, regularly, until he was about ninety years old, and assisted at harvest work at the age of one hundred. His sight was so strong that he could see to read a newspaper without the aid of glasses, to the end of his days;

his memory, also, continued unimpaired, until within a few weeks of his death. The allowance he received from the parish—3s. to 4s. a week,—he expended, principally, in the purchase of rum, a spirit of which he had always been extremely fond ; and which he considered as the balm of his life: His last illness confined him to the house nineteen weeks. He was married, and a family of two sons survived him.

HODGSON, ELIZABETH, of Scampston, near Pickering, died November 13th, 1760, aged 110.

HORNER, JANE, of Leeds, died in 1700, aged 109.

HOYLE, ELIAS, of Sowerby, near Halifax, died in 1805, aged 113.

HOUSEMAN, JOHN, a labouring man of Sessay, near Thirsk, died in 1777, aged 111.

HOTHAM, MRS., widow, of Tadcaster, died in 1811, aged 99.

HOLIDAY, JOHN, of Milshay, near Leeds, died in 1812, aged 100. More than a hundred of his descendants, attended his funeral.

HOPWOOD, ANN, widow, of Hull, died in 1814, aged 105.

HUME, THOMAS, gentleman, of the City of York, died in April, 1780, aged 115.

HUGHES, WILLIAM, of Tadcaster, died in September, 1769, aged 127.

HUNT, WILLIAM, of Sheffield, died in 1708, aged 102.

HUMPHRIES, MRS., widow, of Elmsall, near Sheffield, died in 1809, aged 103.

HOLMES, HANNAH, of Shipley, died in April, 1828, aged 104 years.

HUNTER, MRS., of Scarborough, died in April, 1786, in the 106th year of her age. She retained her faculties to the last. An hour before she expired, she gave instructions that her maiden name (Noel,) might be put upon her tombstone,—she being a descendant of that family, third cousin to the Earl of Rutland, and, also, third cousin to the Earl of Gainsborough.

“ How loved, how honoured once, avails thee not,
To whom related, or, by whom begot;
A heap of dust alone remains of thee,
'Tis all thou art; and all the proud shall be.”

J

“ The *man* of whom I speak is old—so old,
He seems to have outlived a world's decay;
The hoary mountains, and the wrinkled ocean,
Seem younger still than he; his hair and beard
Are whiter than the tempest sifted snow.”

The oldest Yorkshireman of whom we have any record, is HENRY JENKINS; some say the oldest English-

man;* others, the oldest man in the world since the days of the Hebrew patriarchs. He was born at Ellerton-upon-Swale, a small village in the North Riding of this County, one mile from Catterick, and six from Richmond, in the year 1500, and the Parish Register, of Bolton-on-Swale, records his death, December 9th, 1670; thus showing that he had completed his 169th year. The proofs on which the great age of Jenkins rest have been examined and sifted with the greatest severity and care; in order, if possible, to detect the slightest fallacy: but the fact appears to be established beyond the reach of reasonable doubt. Belonging to an humble station in society, but few events of his life are recorded, beyond his extraordinary longevity. His

* Examples of longevity, even exceeding that of Jenkins, have been given; the most remarkable, in England, is that of Thomas Carn, who is said to have died in Shoreditch, London, January 28th, 1588, aged 207 years; that he was born in the reign of Richard II., A. D., 1381, and lived in the reigns of twelve kings and Queens of England. The proofs of his age are not given, and it is generally looked upon as apocryphal,

"The Petersburg Journal," published in 1812, an account of a man, in the diocese of Ekaterinoslaw, who attained to an age between 200, and 205.

Peter Czartan, a native of Transylvania, died at Rofrosh, near Temswar, January 5th, 1724, aged 185.

A mulatto man, name unknown, is said to have died at Frederick Town, in North America, in the year 1797, at the age of 180.

A negress, named Louisa Truxo, was living in June, 1780, at Cordova, in the Tecuman, South America, then 175 years old.

youth was passed in the laborious employments of agriculture; afterwards, he became butler to the Lord Conyers, of Hornby Castle; in his old age, he used to earn a livelihood by thatching houses, and fishing in the rivers.

The earliest, and most reliable account of Jenkins, is given by Mrs. Anne Savile, daughter of John Savile, Esq., of Methley, ancestor of the Earls of Mexborough, a lady whose testimony may be considered as above suspicion, in a letter to Dr. Tancred Robinson, F.R.S.,* published in the transactions of the Royal Society:—This lady says, “ When I first came to live at Bolton, it was told me that there lived in that parish, a man near one hundred and fifty years old; that he had sworn as a witness in a cause at York, to one hundred and twenty years, which the judge reproving him for, he said, he was butler at that time to Lord Conyers; and they told me it was reported his name was found in some old register of the Lord Conyers, menial servants. Being one day in my sister’s kitchen, Henry Jenkins coming in to beg an alms, I had a mind to examine him; I told him he was an

* Dr. Tancred Robinson was second son of Thomas Robinson, Esq., and own brother to Sir William Robinson, Baronet, of Newby-on-Swale. He was M.D., and F.R.S., and was Knighted on his appointment as Physician to King George I.

old man, who must soon expect to give an account to God of all he did or said ; and I desired him to tell me, very truly, how old he was ; on which he paused a little, and then said, to the best of his remembrance he was about one hundred and sixty-two, or, one hundred and sixty-three. I asked him what kings he remembered ? He said, Henry VIII. I asked him, what public thing he could longest remember ? He said, Flodden Field. I asked him whether the King was there ? He said, no ; he was in France, and the Earl of Surrey was General. I asked him how old he might be then ? He said between ten and twelve ; ‘for,’ says he, ‘I was sent to Northallerton with a horse-load of arrows ; but they sent a bigger boy from thence to the army with them.’ I thought by these marks, I might find something in histories ; and looking into an old chronicle, I found that Flodden Field, was about one hundred and fifty-two years before, so that if he was ten or eleven years old, he must be one hundred and sixty-two, or one hundred and sixty-three, as he said, when I examined him. I found that bows and arrows were then used, and that the Earl he named was then General, and that King Henry VIII. was then at Tournay : so that I don’t know what to answer to the consistencies of these things,

for Henry Jenkins was a poor man, and could neither write nor read. There were, also, four or five in the same parish, that were reputed, all of them, to be one hundred years old, or within two or three years of it, and they all said he was an elderly man ever since they knew him, for he was born in another parish, and before any Register was in Churches,* as it is said. He told me then, too, that he was butler to the Lord Conyers, and remembered the Abbot of Fountains' Abbey very well, who used to drink a glass with his lord heartily ; and that the dissolution of the Monasteries he well remembered.

ANN SAVILE."

The following remarks are from the pen of Dr. Tancred Robinson, Physician to King George I. :—

" This Henry Jenkins, died December 8th, 1670, at Ellerton-on-Swale. The battle of Flodden Field was fought on the 19th of September, 1513. Henry Jenkins was twelve years old when Flodden Field was fought ; so that he lived one hundred and sixty-nine years. Old Parr lived one hundred and fifty-two years and nine months ; so that Henry Jenkins outlived him, by com-

* Parish Registers were first ordered to be kept in 1538.

putation, sixteen years, and was the oldest man born on the ruins of the postdiluvian world.*

This Henry Jenkins, in the last century of his life, was a fisherman, and used to wade in the streams. His diet was coarse and sour : but, towards the latter end of his days, he begged up and down. He was sworn in Chancery, and other courts, to above one hundred and forty years' memory, and was often at the Assizes at York, whither he generally went afoot ; and, I have heard some of the country gentlemen affirm that he frequently swam in the rivers after he was past the age of one hundred years."

Miss Savile having sent a copy of her statement respecting Jenkins, to Sir Richard Graham, of Norton Conyers, near Ripon ; which was inserted in the house-

* This high sounding, and not very definite, expression of the learned Doctor's, requires some modification, though the accuracy of the instances of old age given above, exceeding that of Jenkins may be impugned, though not easily proved false ; yet the ages of some of the patriarchs born after the flood, and consequently "on the ruins of the postdiluvian world," exceeded that of Jenkins, as—Arphaxad, son of Shem, born two years after the flood, lived 438 years ; Salah, 433 ; Eber, 464 ; Peleg, 239 ; Reu, 239 ; Serug, 230.—Genesis, xi. Abraham lived 175 years ; "And the days of Isaac, were an hundred and fourscore years.—Genesis, xxxv. 28.

Grainger, in his Biographical History, says—"He was the oldest man, of the postdiluvians, of whom we have any *credible account*."

hold book of that family ; a transcript of it was, afterwards, given to Roger Gale, the celebrated antiquary, by Sir Reginald Graham, accompanied with the following note from himself :—

“ Sir,—I have sent you an account of Henry Jenkins, as I find it in my grandfather’s Household Book,—the time of his death is mentioned, under the letter as I have set it down ; it seems not to have been the same hand : he must have lived sometime after Mrs. Savile, sent this account to Sir Richard. I have heard Sir Richard was Sheriff, when Jenkins gave evidence to six score years, in a cause between Mr. How and Mrs. Wastell, of Ellerton. The Judge asked him, how he got his living ? he said “ by thatching houses, and fishing.” This letter is without date, but appears to have been written, by Mrs. Savile, in the year 1661, or 1662, by what she says of the time when she examined the old man, compared with that of Flodden Field, and was eight or nine years before he died, for I found his burial in the Register of Bolton Church, thus—“ December the 9th, 1670, Henry Jenkins, a very old poor man.” And was also shewed his grave.

R. GRAHAM.”

“ Norton, 26th August, 1739-40.”

From his extraordinary age, he was often summoned as a witness, to give evidence on ancient rights and usages, where his evidence was frequently of the most material importance.

“A Commission out of the Court of Exchequer, dated 12 Feby. 19. Charles II. authorizing George Wright, Joseph Chapman, John Burnett, and Richard Fawcett, Gents., to examine witnesses, as well on the part of the plaintiff, as defendant, in a tythe cause between Charles Anthony, vicar of Catterick, complainant, and Calvert Smithson, owner and occupier of lands, in Kipling, in the parish of Catterick:

Depositions taken in the house of John Stairman, at Catterick, Co. Ebor: on the 15th April, 1667:—

Henry Jenkins, of Ellerton-upon-Swale, labourer, aged one hundred and fifty-seven, or thereabouts, swore and examined, says—‘That he has known the parties seven years, and that the tithes of lambs, calves, wool, colts, chickens, goslings, pigs, apples, pears, plums, flax, hemp, fruit, and multure of mills were paid in kind, by one Mr. Calvert,* the owner of the Lordship or Manor of Kipling, to one Mr. Thriscroft,† above

* George Calvert, Esq., afterwards created Baron Baltimore.

+ Henry Thriscroft was Vicar of Catterick from 1594 till 1603; Richard Fawcett, from 1603 till 1660.

threescore years since, the Vicar of Catterick ; and were so paid in kind during the time of his the said Mr. Thriscroft's continuance ; and, after, the tithes of Kipling were paid in kind to one Richard Fawcett, deceased, for many years together as vicar of Catterick ; and that this deponent never knew of any customary tithes, paid by any of the owners, or occupiers, of the Lordship or manor of Kipling, or any other of the towns or hamlets within the said parish of Catterick ; but all such particulars named in the interrogatories were ever paid in kind to the vicar there for the time being.”*

At the Assizes at York, in 1655, Jenkins appeared as a witness, to prove a right of way over a man’s ground ; he swore to 120 years memory ; for that time he remembered a way over the ground in question. Being cautioned, by the Judge, to beware what he said, as there were two men in the court, above eighty years of age each, who had sworn they remembered no such way, he replied that those men were boys to him. Upon which the Judge asked those men how old they took Jenkins to be ? They answered that they knew him very well, but not his age ; for he was a very old man when they were boys.

* Clarkson’s History of Richmond, p. 396.

In the cause mentioned in Sir Reginald Graham's letter, between How and Wastell, of Ellerton, Jenkins again gave evidence to one hundred and twenty years memory. One of the Judges asked him what remarkable battle, or event, had happened in his memory, to which he answered, that, when the battle of Flodden Field was fought, where the Scots were beat with the loss of their King, he was turned of twelve years of age. Being asked how he lived, he said, by thatching and salmon fishing; that when he was served with a subpoena, he was thatching a house, and he would *dub a hook* with any man in Yorkshire. He also stated that he had been butler to Lord Conyers, of Hornby Castle, and that Marmaduke Brodelay, lord abbot of Fountains, did frequently visit his lord, and drank a hearty glass with him—that his lord often sent him to enquire how the abbot did, who always sent for him to his lodgings, and, after ceremonies (as he called it) passed, ordered him, besides *wassel*, a quarter of a yard of roast beef for his dinner, (for that monasteries did deliver their guests meat by measure,) and a great black jack of strong drink. Being further asked if he remembered the dissolution of the religious houses, he said, very well; and that he was between thirty and forty years of age, when the order came to dissolve those in

Yorkshire; and that great lamentation was made, and the country all in a tumult, when the monks were turned out.

Another cause is also mentioned in which Jenkins appeared as a witness at York, in 1667, between the Vicar of Catterick, and William and Peter Mawbank, in which he deposed, that tithes of wool, lambs, &c., were the Vicar's, and had been paid, to his knowledge one hundred and twenty years and more.

Of the family history and private life of the venerable old man, we have very little information; he was married, but what family he had we know not; two sons have been mentioned as living a few years before their father's death, "both of whom were much more infirm in memory and in body than the patriarch himself." If it were so, those sons had either not been born in the parish of Bolton, or never baptised, as there are only two of the name of Jenkins recorded in the parish register, that of the *old man* himself, and his wife, who paid the debt of nature in 1668, two years before her venerable partner, who, as already mentioned, died December 9th, 1670. If the engraved portraits of him are to be depended on, he was a tall, spare man, with a coarse, strong, but not unpleasing countenance; the beard is a principal feature, and appears to have descended down

his breast with genuine patriarchial dignity ; his likeness is not unfrequently seen on public house signs, in this county. There is, however, said to have been a genuine portrait of him, taken by Robert Walker, painter to the Lord Protector Cromwell, which was engraved in 1752, by Worlidge.

In the year 1743, a monument was erected, by subscription, in Bolton church yard, to the memory of Jenkins ; it consists of a square base of freestone, four feet four inches on each side, by four feet six inches in height, surmounted by a pyramid eleven feet high. On the east side is inscribed—

THIS MONUMENT WAS
ERECTED BY CONTRIBUTIO^N,
IN Y^E YEAR 1743, TO Y^E MEMORY
OF HENRY JENKINS.

On the west side—

HENRY JENKINS,
AGED 169.

In the church, on a mural tablet of black marble, is inscribed the following epitaph, composed by Dr. Thomas Chapman, Master of Magdalen College, Cambridge :—

BLUSH NOT, MARBLE,
TO RESCUE FROM OBLIVION

THE MEMORY OF

HENRY JENKINS:

A PERSON OBSCURE IN BIRTH,
BUT OF A LIFE TRULY MEMORABLE;

FOR

HE WAS ENRICHED
WITH THE GOODS OF NATURE,

IF NOT OF FORTUNE,

AND HAPPY

IN THE DURATION,

IF NOT VARIETY,

OF HIS ENJOYMENTS:

AND,

THO' THE PARTIAL WORLD
DESPISED AND DISREGARDED
HIS LOW AND HUMBLE STATE,
THE EQUAL EYE OF PROVIDENCE
BEHELD, AND BLESSED IT

WITH A PATRIARCH'S HEALTH AND LENGTH OF DAYS:

TO TEACH MISTAKEN MAN,

THESE BLESSINGS WERE ENTAILED ON TEMPERANCE,
OR, A LIFE OF LABOUR, AND A MIND AT EASE.

HE LIVED TO THE AMAZING AGE OF

169;

WAS INTERRED HERE, DEC. 6, (*lege 9,*)

1670,

AND HAD THIS JUSTICE DONE TO HIS MEMORY

1743.

This inscription is a proof that learned men, and masters of colleges, are not always exempt from the infirmity of writing nonsense. Passing over the modest request to the *black* marble not to blush, because it may *feel* itself degraded by bearing the name of the plebeian—Jenkins, when it ought only to have been appropriated to kings and nobles ; we find but questionable philosophy, in this inappropriate composition.

The multitude of great events which took place during the lifetime of this man, are truly wonderful, and astonishing. He lived under the rule of nine sovereigns of England—Henry VII. ; Henry VIII. ; Edward VI. ; Mary ; Elizabeth ; James I. ; Charles I. ; Oliver Cromwell ; and Charles II. ; he was born when the Roman Catholic religion, was established by law, he saw the dissolution of the monasteries, and the faith of the nation changed—Popery established a second time by Queen Mary—Protestantism, restored by Elizabeth—the civil wars, between Charles and the Parliament, begun and ended—monarchy abolished—the young republic of England, arbiter of the destinies of Europe, and the restoration of monarchy under the libertine Charles II. During his time, England was invaded by the Scots ; a Scottish King was slain, and a Scottish Queen beheaded.

in England ; a King of Spain, and a King of Scotland, were Kings in England ; three Queens and one King, were beheaded in England in his days ; and fire and plague alike desolated London. His lifetime appears like that of a nation, more than an individual, so long extended and crowded with such great events.

JAMESON, ANN, of Aldbrough, near Richmond, died in April, 1766, aged 102. She was confined to her bed during the last ten years of her life.

JACKSON, MARY, of Cropton, near Pickering, died in 1790, aged 104.

JACKSON, BETTY, of Holbeck, near Leeds, died December 22nd, 1828, aged 106. In her twenty-second year she accompanied the pack horses with rations to General Wade's army, then lying at Tadcaster, on its route northward to oppose the rebels in 1745.

JACKSON, LUKE, of Gauxholme, died in 1802, aged 103.

JARMAN, BETTY, widow, an inmate of one of the alms-houses, York, died in 1811, aged 100.

JOHNSON, ANN, of Aiskew, near Bedale, died in November, 1777, in her 105th year. She was mother to six children, grandmother to thirty-six, and great grandmother to six.

JOHNSON, BARTHOLEMEW, an eminent musician of Scarborough, died in 1814, aged 105. In the year 1810, a minor Jubilee was celebrated in the town, in consequence of the aged worthy completing the first century of his existence. Lord Mulgrave honoured the meeting with his presence, and afterwards sent Mr. Jackson, the artist, to take the portrait of the venerable old man, which his Lordship afterwards presented to the Corporation of Scarborough.

“When age and virtue in one form are joined,
’Tis sweet to honour them.”

JONES, JOAN, of Guisborough, died in May, 1772, in the 103rd year of her age.

K

KEIGHLEY, ANN, widow, of Hunslet, near Leeds, died September 21st, 1796, aged 100. She was mother, grandmother, and great grandmother to 253 children, and was carried to the grave by twelve of her great grand children ; nearly one hundred of her descendants attended her funeral.

KIRTON, GEORGE, Esq., of Oxnop Hall, near Reeth, died July 15th, 1764, in his 125th year. He was remarkable for his love of hunting ; after following the chase on horseback till he was upwards of eighty, so

great was his desire for the diversion, that till he was 100 years old, he regularly attended the “breaking cover” in his single horse chair. He was a remarkable instance that length of days are not always entailed on a life of temperance and sobriety, for no man—even till within a short time of his death—made more free with his bottle.* His estate—which was considerable, and had been in the family for three centuries—descended to his son, Thomas Kirton, Esq., an eminent physician.

KERSHAW, MARY, widow, of Pontefract, died in 1788, aged 103.

KIRK, JOHN, died at Leeds, in 1850, aged 103. He was a brickmaker by trade, and a native of Derbyshire.

KING, MARY, died in April, 1817, at Stonehaven, in Dent, aged 111. She was—for a number of years—one of the blind annuitants of Christ’s Hospital.

* Many men of intemperate habits have attained to extreme old age; even some who have been habitual drinkers—the most remarkable of whom was, perhaps, Thomas Whittington, of Hellingdon, Middlesex, who died in 1804, aged 104. He retained the complete use of all his powers of mind to the very last hour of his life. He was in the habit of drinking, daily, for many years, and till within a fortnight of his death, from a pint, to a pint and a half of London Gin, which, singular to relate, seemed to have very little effect upon his system. On the other hand, more centenarians have been temperate in their habits, and some of them total abstainers from strong drinks.

KITCHINGMAN, JOHN, Esq., of Chapel Allerton,* near Leeds, died in 1510, aged 115.

KITCHINGMAN, ROBERT, Esq., of the same place and family, died May 7th, 1716, aged 100. He ordered his body to be buried by torchlight, at Chapel Allerton, where he was interred on the 16th of the same month, when one hundred torches were carried in the funeral procession. The room where the body was laid was hung with black, and a velvet pall, with escutcheons, was borne by the chief gentry; the bearers had all scarf's, biscuits, and sack, and the whole company gloves. Fifty pounds was given amongst the poor in the chapel yard, on the day of his interment.

KITCHINGMAN, MARY, widow of the above, died July

* Allerton Hall was, upwards of four centuries, the property and residence of the Kitchingman family. It was the largest and most ancient mansion in Chapeltown, consisting of about sixty rooms, with gardens and pleasure grounds. This family, for the long period of their residence here, were carried from the hall by torchlight, to be interred in the choir of St. Peter's church, in Leeds. At the funeral of any of the family, the great chandelier, consisting of thirty-six branches, was lighted. When Sir Thomas Fairfax took the town of Leeds by assault, in 1643, Henry Robinson, vicar of Leeds, and brother of Mary Kitchingman, fled to this house, after having narrowly escaped with his life, in crossing the Aire, below St. Peter's church. Tradition says that King Charles II. was concealed at this house before he went to Leeds. The Hall was sold, about the year 1755, to Josiah Oates, Esq., merchant, of Leeds. Part of the old Hall is yet standing, although the greatest part of it was taken down about the year 1730.

28th, 1716, aged 97. She was interred precisely in the same manner as her husband.

KNOWLES, ISABELLA, died at Tenement, in the township of Fountains' Earth, Nidderdale, January 30th, 1846, at the age of 102. She resided at Pateley Bridge, until within a few years of her death, and so completely did she retain the use of her faculties, that she could see to thread a needle, and sew without spectacles, when upwards of one hundred years old. Her memory was perfect to the last. She was married and had a family.

L

LAW, MATTHEW, of Sand Hutton, near Thirsk, died November 4th, 1814, aged 100. The Register of this Chapelry, between the years 1813, and 1844, contains the names of six persons buried there, each of them more than 90 years of age.

LAMBERT, PHINEAS, of Thornhill, died in 1833, aged 94. He was a member of the Calvinistic persuasion sixty years. He enjoyed good health to the last, and saw four generations of his descendants, to the number of 152, most of whom followed him to the grave.

LAWRANCE, ROBERT, of Guisborough, died in March

1762, aged 100. He had four wives, and was married to Jane Enderson, his last, when ninety years of age.

LAZENBY, HANNAH, was living in the year 1823, at Well, near Bedale, aged 103. We have no information as to the time of her death.

LEPTON, AGNES, of Kepwick, near Thirsk, died May 3rd, 1603, aged 103.

LANE, ESTHER, of Eggleston Abbey, died in 1804, aged 105.

LEGRO, DANIEL, of Leeds, died in 1773, aged 103.

LEVI, LAZARUS, of Leeds, died in 1797, aged 105. He was of the Jewish persuasion, and, until he was upwards of 100, he was in the habit of traversing the streets of Leeds, and adjacent townships as a vendor of fine hardware and trinkets.

LISTER, SIR MATTHEW, KNIGHT, a native of Craven, died in 1657, aged 92. He was physician to Anne of Denmark, Queen of King James I., and one of the physicians in ordinary to King Charles I., President of the College of Medicine in London, and one of the most eminent of his profession in the Kingdom.

LITTLETON, JAMES, of Rishworth, near Halifax, died in 1700, aged 100.

LOWTHER, MR., of Guisborough, died in June, 1767, aged 100.

LOGAN, JOHN, of Halifax, died in 1830, aged 104. He was 50 years a soldier, and after his discharge received a pension of fourteen shillings a week. He was twice married ; by his first wife, he had 8 girls ; and by his second, 12 girls and 12 boys.

LOVELL, MRS., of Burlington, died in 1800, aged 100.

LOWTHER, HANNAH, died at Thornton, near Pickering, September 10th, 1861, aged 104. She retained all her faculties to the last, and could read ordinary print, a short time before her death, without spectacles.

LISTER, SARAH, of Grassington, died at Skipton, January 28th, 1862, aged 100 years.

M

MARTIN, THOMAS, an inhabitant of Helmsley, was born in the year 1674, and died in November 1804, aged 130.

MANN, RICHARD, of Middleton, died in 1713, aged 105.

MAWHOOD, MRS., widow, of Pontefract, died in 1792, aged 100.

MACKNAY, BARBARA, of Middleton Tyas, died in 1808, aged 102. Her whole life had been a course of uninterrupted good health.

METCALFE, JANE, widow of Henry Metcalfe, Esq., of

Nappa Scar, near Askrigg, died April 3rd, 1859, in the 100th year of her age.*

METCALFE, JOHN, commonly called "Blind Jack, of Knaresborough," died at Spofforth, about four miles from that town, April 26th, 1810, in the ninety-third year of his age. His descendants at that time were four children,

* The Metcalfes of Wensleydale, of which the house of Nappa was the head, were, at one time, the most numerous family in England. They were alike ancient and honourable; and many of them were highly distinguished in different capacities. James Metcalfe, of Nappa, was a captain in the battle of Agincourt. "Thomas, son of James Metcalf, as Leland tells us, bought Nappa, of Lord Scrope; there was only a little cottage on it, and he built the house, which, in that historian's time, was commony called—*No Castle*. He was steward receiver of the lands of Richmond, and grew very rich. When Leland wrote, there were in the vicinity '300 men yn very knownen consanguinitie to them.' In 1556, Sir Christopher Metcalfe, being high Sheriff of Yorkshire, met the Judges of assize, attended by 300 horsemen, all of his own family and name, mounted on white horses, and clad in uniform habits. The last heir male of the *senior* line, was Thomas Metcalfe, Esq., of Nappa Hall, who died unmarried, April 25th, 1756, aged 69."—*Barker's three days in Wensleydale*, page 222.

The popular derivation of the name of Metcalfe is amusing. On a time when the country abounded with wild animals, two men being in the woods together, at evenfall, seeing a red four-footed beast coming towards them, could not imagine in the dusk what it was. One said, "Have you heard of lions being in these woods?" The other answered he had, but had never seen any such thing. So they conjectured that what they saw was one. The creature advanced a few paces towards them. One ran away, the other determined to meet it. The animal happened to be a *red calf*,—so he who met it got the name of *Metcalfe*, and he who ran away, that of *Lightfoot*.

twenty grandchildren, and ninety great and great great grandchildren. He is, perhaps, one of the most remarkable instances on record, of the difficulties of blindness and want of education being overcome by perseverance and industry. During his long life he was engaged in the most active and diverse employments. He was born at Knaresborough, August 15th, 1717; at the age of six years, he was completely deprived of sight by the small pox; six months after his recovery, he was able to go from his father's house to the end of the street, and return without a guide. When about nine years of age, he began to associate with other boys, rambling about with them to seek bird nests, and used to climb the trees for his share of the spoils. At the age of thirteen he was taught music, and soon became an able performer; he also learned to ride and swim, and was passionately fond of field sports. He began to practise, as a musician, at Harrogate, when twenty-five years of age, and not unfrequently was a guide during the darkness of night over the moors and wilds, then abundant in the neighbourhood of Knaresborough. He was also addicted to horse racing, on which occasions he often rode his own horses. He so tutored his horses, that whenever he called them by their respective names, they would answer by neigh-

ing, and he could readily find his own, among any number, without any difficulty or assistance. When he attained the age of manhood, his mind was possessed of a self-dependence, rarely enjoyed by those who have the perfect use of all their faculties; his body was well proportioned to his mind, for, when twenty-one years of age, he was six feet one and a half inches in height, strong, and robust in proportion. Once, being desirous of obtaining some fish, he, unaided, drew a net in the deepest part of the river Wharfe, for three hours together; at one time he held the lines in his mouth, being obliged to swim.

The marriage of this extraordinary individual was a romance in real life, something like that which Sir Walter Scott has described in his ballad of *Lochinvar*. Miss Benson, between whom, and our hero, a reciprocal affection had for some time subsisted, was to be married next day, to one Mr. Dickinson, a husband of her parents choice; the damsel not relishing the match, determined to elope with Metcalfe, blind and poor as he was; they were accordingly married next day, much to the chagrin and disappointment of her parents and their intended son in law, and the surprise of all who knew and heard of it, for she was as handsome a woman as any in

the country. When afterwards questioned, by a lady, concerning this extraordinary step, and why she had refused so many good offers for “Blind Jack ; she answered, “Because I could not be happy without him.” And being more particularly questioned, she replied—“His actions are so singular, and his spirit so manly and enterprising, that I could not help liking him.”

He continued to play at Harrogate in the season, and set up a four wheel chaise, and a one horse chair, for public accomodation ; there having been nothing of the kind there before. He kept these vehicles two summers, when the innkeepers beginning to run chaises, he gave them up, as he also did racing and hunting ; but still, wanting employment, he bought horses and went to the coast for fish, which he took to Leeds and Manchester ; and so indefatigable was he, that he would frequently walk for two nights and a day, with little or no rest ; for, as a family was coming on, he was as eager for business as he had been for diversion, still keeping up his spirits, as Providence blessed him with good health.

More extraordinary still, when the rebellion of 1745, broke out in Scotland, “Blind Jack” joined a regiment of volunteers, raised by Colonel Thomas Thornton, a patriotic gentleman, for the defence of the house of

Hanover, shared with them all the dangers of the campaign, defeated at Falkirk, victorious at Culloden. Jack afterwards carried on a small contraband trade, between the ports on the east coast and the interior ; as well as in galloways from Scotland, in which he met with many adventures. In the year 1754, he set up a stage waggon between York and Knaresborough, being the first on that road, and conducted it constantly himself twice a-week in the summer season, and once in the winter, which occupation he continued until he began to contract for making roads, which suited him better. The first contract of the kind which he had, was three miles between Minskip and Ferrensby, on the Boroughbridge and Knaresborough road.* He afterwards made hundreds of miles of road in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire ; he also built bridges and houses. He was a dealer in timber and hay, which he used to measure, and then calculate the solid contents, by a peculiar method of his own. The hay he always measured with his arms, and, having learnt the height, he could soon

* Dr. Hunter, in his treatise on the Harrogate Waters, has a little bit of dull wit on blind Jack's road making—"They employed a blind man to lay out the roads in the neighbourhood, upon the ingenious principle, probably, that where such an individual could travel, another with two eyes might surely follow."

tell the number of square yards in any stack. Whenever he went out, he always carried with him a stout staff, some inches taller than himself, which was of great use to him, both in his travels and measurements. He is thus mentioned in a paper published in the “Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, vol. 1.—His present occupation is that of a projector and surveyor of highways, in difficult and mountainous parts. With the assistance only of a long staff, I have several times met this man traversing the roads, ascending precipices, exploring valleys, and investigating their several extents, forms, and situations, so as to answer his designs in the best manner. The plans which he designs, and the estimates he makes, are done in a method peculiar to himself, and which he cannot well convey the meaning of to others. His abilities, in this respect, are, nevertheless, so great, that he finds constant employment. Most of the roads over the Peak in Derbyshire have been altered by his directions, particularly those in the vicinity of Buxton ; and he is, at this time, constructing a new one between Wilmslow and Congleton, with a view to open a communication with the great London road, without being obliged to pass over the mountains.” After leaving Lancashire, in 1792, he

settled at Spofforth, and lived, with his daughter, on a small farm there, till his death. The following inscription, copied from the headstone, erected to his memory in Spofforth churchyard, at the cost of Lord Dundas, will be interesting, as it contains a summary of his life and character :—

“ Here lies John Metcalf, one whose infant sight,
 Felt the dark pressure of an endless night ;
 Yet such the fervour of his dauntless mind,
 His limbs full strung, his spirits unconfined,
 That, long ere yet life’s bolder years began,
 The sightless efforts marked th’ aspiring man ;
 Nor marked in vain—high deeds his manhood dared,
 And commerce, travel, both his ardour shared ;
 ’Twas his a guide’s unerring aid to lend,—
 O’er trackless wastes to bid new roads extend ;
 And, when rebellion reared her giant size,
 ’Twas his to burn with patriot enterprise ;
 For parting wife and babes, a pang to feel,
 Then welcome danger for his country’s weal.
 Reader ! like him exert thy utmost talent given !
 Reader, like him adore the bounteous hand of heaven !”

HE DIED ON THE 26TH OF APRIL, 1801,

IN THE 93RD YEAR OF HIS AGE.

MIDDLEHAM, MRS., widow, of Holbeck, near Leeds, died in 1794, aged 101.

MILBOURNE, MARY, of Sessay, near Thirsk, died in November, 1784, aged 101. She was a widow and a pauper many years.

MILLER, SARAH, of Hardeastle, in Nidderdale, was buried at Pateley Bridge, October 19th, 1820, aged 103.

She was married and had a family. For a great number of years she was employed as a *hand metal washer*—that is, a washer of lead ore—at the Cockhill lead mine, Greenhow-hill. (About half a century ago, this work was commonly done by women, with hand seives, now it is done by machinery.) She followed this hard work until she was upwards of one hundred years of age ; and, such was her thrift and economy of time, that she was always engaged in knitting when walking to and from her work ; and even on her longer journeys, to Pateley Bridge, and other places, she was nearly always to be seen industriously plying her knitting needles. On the hundredth anniversary of her birthday, she made a feast at her house, to which she invited several of the master miners ; one of the principal dishes on this memorable occasion was a *goose pie* (a grand and glorious dish, was the standing goose pie at Christmas, in days not long since past). She possessed the use of her faculties, and her memory, which was singularly retentive nearly to the last.

MONTGOMERY, ROBERT, died at Skipton, in Craven, January 26th, 1671, aged 127. He was a native of Scotland ; but the oldest inhabitant of Skipton never knew him but as an aged man. During many years

of the latter part of his life he obtained a livelihood by soliciting alms from door to door, and in the public places of the town, which he did till within a year of his death.

MORGAN, WALTER, of Rotherham, died in 1813, aged 100. He had been a soldier in early life, and seen much hard service.

MORRIS, MARTHA, of Leeds, died in 1812, aged 104.

MOORE, MRS., of York, died in 1769, aged 107.

MORRISON, JAMES, of Harrogate, died in 1734, aged 102. He was a musician at that watering place more than seventy years, and followed his favourite pursuit till his death.

MALLINSON, MARY, died at Harrogate, in 1820, aged 101. She was buried in the ground attached to St. John's Chapel, where Christ's Church now stands.

MYERS, MARY, of Northwoods, near Pateley Bridge, died September 20th, 1743, aged 120 years. There is a stone to her memory in the burial ground attached to the *old* church at Pateley Bridge.

MAWER, MARY, died at Shaw Mills, near Ripley, May, 1861, aged 100 years.

MYERS, ANN, of Birstwith, near Ripley, died in February, 1823, aged 102 years.

N

NAYLOR, JOHN, of East Ardsley, near Wakefield, died May 24th, 1862, aged 99 years. He was the last lineal descendant of the notorious James Naylor of the same place, better known in his time as "the mad Quaker of Ardslaw," who suffered such cruel treatment from the second parliament of Cromwell, which said parliament did so little else, that De Foe dubs it, "James Naylor's Parliament."

NEWMAN, THOMAS. In the churchyard, at Bridlington, is a tombstone, thus inscribed—"To the memory of Thomas Newman, who died in 1542, aged 153. This stone was re-faced in 1771, to preserve the recollection of this remarkable prolongation of human life." Next to Henry Jenkins, he is the oldest Yorkshireman of whom we have any record.

NORRIS, WIDOW, died at Leeds, in 1705, aged 106.

NORTH, JOHN, died at Holme, in 1811, aged 101.

NORTHALLERTON. The registers of this parish, from 1721 to 1857, inclusive, record the names of sixty-three persons each upwards of 90 years of age—two of them exceeded 100, two 99, three 98, one 97, six 96, seven 95, four 94, five 93, six 92, nine 91, and eighteen 90.



OGDEN, MARY, of Holbeck, near Leeds, died in 1795, aged 106.

OGILBY, ROBERT, a noted old tinker, died at Leeds, in December, 1768, after having completed his 114th year. It appears from the register that he was born at Ripon, November 16th, 1654; in corroboration of which, his own account of himself was, that he was put apprentice in 1668, to one Sellars, a brazier, in York, when he was 14 years old, served him seven years in that capacity, and two years more as a journeyman; he then began business for himself, at Ripon, where he failed; after which, he went to Hull, where he worked four years; he then entered into the army of King James, and was sent with the regiment to which he belonged, into Ireland, where, like many more, at that time, he changed his master, and was amongst the number of those who fought under King William, at the battle of the Boyne, in 1690, where he saw the duke of Schonberg fall. He served about twenty-three years longer in the army, in different places, and was discharged after the peace of Utrecht; but, having neither wounds, infirmities, or friends to plead for him, he got no pension; so he returned to his old trade, or rather

took up the new one of travelling brazier, which he followed till within about four years of his death. At the age of one hundred, he would carry his budget twenty miles in one day with as much alacrity as most men at fifty. Soon afterwards he grew infirm and was obliged to give up the itinerant trade, and take to begging. In appearance he was upright, tall, and thin. He is a remarkable instance of prolongation of life through toil, privation, and danger.* He was married to his wife

* Many instances might be cited of soldiers arriving at extreme old age, the following may suffice:—

Joshua Crewman, a pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, died in 1794, aged 123. He served in the armies of George the first and second, and was discharged in the 74th year of his age.

William Billings, a soldier, died at Fairfield Head, in Staffordshire, in 1793, aged 114. He was the last surviving private soldier in England who served under the great duke of Marlborough. Singular to relate, he was born under a hedge, in 1679, not a hundred yards from the cottage where he died.

William Gillispie, an old Chelsea Pensioner, died at Ruthwell, near Dumfries, Scotland, June 15th, 1818, aged 108.

Andrew Gammels, a dragoon, in the British Service, during Queen Anne's wars, died at Roxburgh, in March, 1794, aged 105. He begged his bread for the last fifty years of his life.

Samuel Mogg, one of the last survivors of the army which fought under General Wolfe, died in 1812, aged 102.

James Hatfield, died in 1770, aged 105. He was the soldier, who, whilst on duty one night at Windsor, counted St. Paul's clock at midnight strike thirteen, instead of twelve; he was found asleep on duty, after the hour when he ought to have been relieved; was tried by a court martial, but pleaded that he was awake, and on duty, during his proper guard time, by saying he heard the clock strike thirteen, which fact, being confirmed by the city watchman, he was acquitted.

William Marshall, a travelling tinker, of Kirkcudbright, died in 1792, aged 120. He followed his occupation up to the year before he died.

seventy-three years, by whom he had twenty-five children, twelve boys, and thirteen girls. His wife lived to the age of 106.

OWTHORPE, MARY, died at Hessay, in 1809, aged 106.

P

PAYCOCK, JAMES, of Nunnington, died February 10th, 1610, aged 100.

PAVORTH, WILLIAM, of Hutton, near York, died in December, 1776, aged 99.

PHILIPS, JOHN, of Thorner, died in 1742, aged 117. He lived under eight crowned heads, beside the protectorate of Cromwell. His teeth were good, and his hearing and sight, comparatively, but little impaired, and he was able to walk, till within a few days of his death. When he was about twenty-eight years of age, being the constable of his parish, he committed two of Cromwell's soldiers to the town's stocks, for some irregularities of conduct, of which they had been publicly guilty.* On complaint being made to the general, of this audacious behaviour on the part of the parish official, he dismissed the complaint at once, with a commen-

* The constable, by common law, may confine offenders in the stocks, by way of security, but not by way of punishment.—*Burn's Justice*.

dation of the constable, and a wish expressed that all his men possessed the courage and moral virtue of this humble rustic.

PRESTON, MARTHA, widow, of Barnsley, died in 1769, aged 125. She outlived five husbands, by whom she had twenty-seven children.

PROCTER, JOHN, of Leathley, near Otley, died in 1710, aged 104.

PREST, WILLIAM, of Galphay, near Ripon, died in April, 1789, in his 109th year. He was a labourer, employed on the Studley Park estate, till within ten years of his death. He left a widow, and eight children; the eldest, 88, and the youngest, 16 years of age.

POTTER. There were living, near Pontefract, in May, 1765, a labourer, named Potter, and his wife, whose ages, together, made 213; the man, 108, and the woman, 105.

PENROSE, THOMAS, of Knaresborough, died February 7th, 1855, aged 98. He was father of thirteen children, of whom, seven arrived at maturity. He lived to see three generations of his descendants.

PEARSON, MARY, of Eryholme, a poor widow, died in 1802, aged 109.

PEARSON, MATTHEW, of Pannal Ash, near Harrogate,

died in 1848, aged 112. He was a working man during the whole of his life, and was for a long time a common carrier, between Leeds, Harrogate, and Knaresborough, and their respective neighbourhoods. He was only once confined to his room, by sickness, in his life, and that was about forty years before his death, when he was so dangerously ill, that the doctor gave him up as incurable, and told him to prepare for the worst : he had, however, a different opinion himself, and on the return of his wife, to his bedside, he asked her for a glass of rum ; she complied with his request, thinking if it did no good, it could not do much harm to a dying man. He had no sooner swallowed it, than he said, "Now I shall mend." And what will ye say to the fact, ye advocates of the curative powers of cold water ? he did mend, and never had another days sickness till the close of his long life. He had the use of his faculties (unimpaired by time and severe usage) to the last, and was able to walk about till within a few days of his death ; which seemed to come to him without pain, and he died because the lamp of life was completely burnt out. He was of middle stature, strong and active in his younger years ; and although once restored to health by a dose of rum, he was not a man of intemperate habits.

PIVETT, CHRISTOPHER, of the City of York, died in 1796, aged 93. He was a carver and gilder by trade ; but during the early part of his life served in the army ; he was present at the battles of Fontenoy, and Dettingen, as well as the siege of Carlisle, and the battle of Culloden, in the Scottish rebellion. After he settled at York, his house was accidentally burnt down ; when he formed the singular resolution, of never again sleeping on a bed, lest he should be burnt to death whilst asleep, or not have sufficient time to remove his property, should an accident occur again ; and this resolution he strictly kept during the remaining forty years of his life. His practice was to repose upon the floor, or on two chairs, or, sitting in a chair, but always with his clothes on. During the whole of this period he lived entirely alone, cooked his own victuals, and seldom admitted any one into his habitation : nor would he disclose to any, the place of his birth, or to whom he was related. He had many singularities, but possessed, politically, as well as socially, a laudable spirit of independence, which he boldly manifested on several trying occasions. Among other uncommon articles, which composed the furniture of his dwelling, was a human scull, which he strictly ordered should be buried with him.

PATEFIELD, ELIAS, of Northowram, died in 1754, aged 100.; and his wife aged 99, died nearly at the same time. They had been married sixty years.

He, first departed—she, for one hour, tried
To live without him, liked it not, and died.

PAUL, ANN, widow, of Skipton, died in 1825, aged 100.

PAUDAMES, SAMUEL, of Teddington, near Malton, died in 1798, aged 105.

PEARSON, MARY, a maiden lady, of Sheffield, died in 1837, aged 97.

PICKLES, JOSEPH, of Wilsden, died May 14th, 1828, in the 96th year of his age. He left a surviving progeny of seven children, seventy-three grand children, one hundred and seventy-nine great grand children, and fifty great great grand children, in all three hundred and nine, exclusive of one hundred and one deceased.

PARKER, ANN, of Skelding, near Ripon, died November 30th, 1863, aged 102.

R

RANDALL, EVE, of Leeds, died September 29th, 1830, aged 100.

REYNOLDS, ANN, of Tunstall, near Catterick, died in 1808, aged 103.

RHEAM, MRS., widow, of Copmanthorpe, near York, died in 1791, aged 101.

RICHARDSON, ESTHER, of Langton-on-the-Wolds, near Malton, died in 1786, aged 109.

ROBERTS, JOHN, of Hipperholme, in the parish of Halifax, died November 10th, 1721, aged 114.

RODGERS, AARON, of Sheffield, died in 1795, aged 101.

ROBshaw, SUSHANNAH, of East-Moor, near Leeds, died in 1807, aged 103.

ROLLINSON, THOMAS, died at Halton, near Leeds, May 16th, 1831. He was 100 years of age, the 27th of January, previous to his death. With the exception of the loss of his eyesight, a short time previous to his decease, he enjoyed uninterrupted good health. He had a perfect recollection of visiting the encampment on Clifford Moor, in 1745; and many other events of that period, were frequent subjects of his aged narration. He lived to see four generations of his own descendants, who all attended him to the grave. Though humble in life, he adorned his station by integrity, sobriety, and industry. He was married sixty-nine and a-half years; and was never known to sing, whistle, or swear, and was never, but once, intoxicated with liquor during his long life.

RUSSELL, MARY, widow, of Upper Hallam, near Sheffield, died in 1837, aged 96. She left nearly one hundred descendants living.

RYMER, BARTHOLEMEW, of Ripon, died in 1791, aged 100. He was a man of great activity, and uniformly enjoyed good health. He was gamekeeper to Sir Bellingham Graham, Bart., of Norton Conyers, and shot game flying in his 99th year.

RUSHWORTH, ANN, of Birstwith, near Ripley, died in January, 1829, aged 101 years.

RATCLIFFE. October 25th, 1503, William Ratcliffe, 100 years of age; Nicholas Whitfield, of 98; and John Thom, of 80 years of age; gave evidence, “for verrey trawthe,” of the affiance or marriage of Elizabeth Clifford and Robert Plumpton, in the “chapell within the castell of Skypton.”

S

SAGAR, JAMES, died at Leeds, in 1701, aged 112.

SCARR, JOHN, of Hawes, in Wensleydale, died in April, 1788, aged 105. He could thread a needle without spectacles, and crack nuts with his teeth, in the last year of his life, as well as most young people.

SEDGFIELD, HENRY, mariner, of Scarborough, died at Edinburgh, in 1787, aged 107.

SHEPHERD, JOHN, of Tadcaster, died in 1757, aged 109.

SHARP, STEPHEN, of Bramhope, near Leeds, died in 1805, aged 107.

SHEPHERD, JOHN, of Soyland, near Halifax, died in 1830, aged 100.

SHERWOOD, MR., of Stokesley, died in 1794, aged 105. He practised much temperance, in all his modes of living, and accustomed himself to constant exercise in the open air.

SHARP, ELIZABETH, of the parish of Brompton-on-Swale, completed her hundredth year in August, 1858. She is now chargeable to the parish for her maintenance ; has the full use of all her faculties little impaired by time, and during her life has invariably enjoyed good health.

SIMPSON, JOHN, of Knaresborough, died in April, 1766, aged 112. He could read print without spectacles, and never had any illness till within three months of his death.

SIMPSON, JOSHUA, Esq., of Hunslet, near Leeds, died in 1780, aged 104.

SIMPSON, MRS., died at Leeds, in 1698, aged 103.

SIMMONS, EDWARD, of Leeds, died in 1840, aged 104. He served twenty-two years in the 25th regiment of

foot, and was an out-door pensioner of Chelsea, since 1792.

SOWDEN, JOHN, of Brighouse, near Halifax, died March 21st, 1829, in the 92nd year of his age. He was born in the house where he died, and never lived one month in any other. He brought up to maturity in the same house, ten children, six of whom were living at the time of his death. He had forty-five grandchildren, and fifty-three great grandchildren; twenty-three of whom were married.

SOMERSGILL, CATHERINE, of Chapel Allerton, near Leeds, died in 1794, aged 100.

SPEED, MARY, of Worsall, near Yarm, died in 1781, aged 103. This poor, but industrious woman, was early left a widow, with several children to support, almost entirely by her own labour. Finding ordinary female employments insufficient to procure a maintenance for herself and family, she engaged herself as a bricklayer's assistant, or in the performance of any other heavy drudgery, by which she might be enabled to earn more: which practice she continued till all her children were so far grown up as to be able to provide for themselves. She afterwards employed herself in spinning, which occupation she followed till the time of

her death, which took place without any previous indisposition.

She passed at once from life to death,
And ceased at once to work and live.

SPENCER, RICHARD, of Scarborough, died in 1785, aged 100.

SMITH, THOMAS, of Knaresborough, was buried March 11th, 1850, just one hundred years after the day he was born. He was a linen manufacturer in his youth, and, later in life, keeper of St. Robert's Chapel. In personal appearance he was tall and thin. He left eighteen children by his wife, only five of whom were married at the time of his death. He had, nevertheless, thirty-five grandchildren, fifty great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren. He had a perfect recollection of seeing the body of Eugene Aram on the gibbet at Thistle Hill, when he was nine or ten years old ; and, as Aram was hung upon "that tree of shame," in August, 1759, he would be about that age at that time.

The same family, and the same place, is remarkable for having produced other two persons who each lived more than a century: the father and grandfather of Thomas Smith. The father died in 1798, aged 103;

while the grandfather attained the age of 108. The three were born, lived, and died in the same house,— a small cottage, situated close to the cliffs, near to St. Robert's Chapel and the river Nidd. It belongs to the family of Slingsby, of Scriven, and was occupied by the family of Smith more than three hundred years. They entirely made the garden in front of the Chapel, by placing soil, brought from a distance, upon the bare rock. When the grandfather occupied the place the rent was one shilling per annum ; when the late Sir Thomas Slingsby came into possession it was raised to five shillings ; when the present Baronet became owner, it was advanced to forty-nine shillings. After the death of their father, the two unmarried daughters were not allowed to occupy it any longer, and the humble cot, which had produced so many specimens of longevity, passed into another family.

SMITH, SARAH. The Annual Register, for the year 1760, contains the following instance of longevity :— “ There is now living one brother and four sisters, born in the parish of Hemingbrough, in the County of York, who reside in that and the adjacent parishes, whose ages put together amount to four hundred and sixty-five years, all hearty and well. The mother of the above

persons, whose name was Sarah Smith, died but a few years ago, aged 103 years: she never knew a day's sickness, and retained her senses to the last,—the happy effects of a life of innocence and temperance."

STEEL, JOHN, of Bishop Thornton, near Ripon, died in 1833, aged 100. He retained his faculties in vigour to the last, and distinctly remembered, when a boy, going to see the King's troops encamped on Kirby Hill Moor, during the rebellion of 1745; also many other events of the early part of the reign of George II.

STOREY, NERIAH, of Leeds, died in 1764, aged 100.

STEPHENSON, GEORGE, of Romaldkirk, died in July, 1855, aged 105. He had passed most of his life as an agricultural labourer, and had been invariably an early riser, even till within a few months of his death. During the latter part of his life, he resided with his daughter at Romaldkirk, to which place he walked from Darlington, in one day, a distance of twenty-two miles, when in his hundredth year. He used frequently to reprove his daughter and her husband, both upwards of 70 years of age, for indulging in bed so long in the mornings, —though they generally rose before six,—telling them, if they would not work when *young*, what would they do when old. He possessed his mental faculties to the

last, and, having a most retentive memory, one of his greatest pleasures was to recount the events of his youthful days.

STRINGER, ANN, of Northallerton, died in September, 1721, aged 108.

STIRK, CLARA, widow, of Skipton, died in 1812, aged 100.

STURTON, WILLIAM, of Patrington, in Holderness, was buried May 18th, 1685, aged 97. He had children—by his first wife, twenty-eight; by his second wife, seventeen—being own father to forty-five, grandfather to eighty-six, great grandfather to ninety-seven, and great great grandfather to twenty-three,—in all two hundred and fifty-one. The above particulars are engraved on his tombstone in the churchyard of Hedon, near Hull.

STURDY, WILLIAM, of Romanby, near Northallerton, died in March, 1835, aged 100.

STOTT, JAMES, farmer, of Brompton-on-Swale, near Richmond, died September 11th, 1851, aged 104. He had full possession of all his faculties up to the time of his decease. He was a slight made man, about four feet four inches in height; was born in that parish, and never lived out of it.

STORZAKER, JOHN, of Hutton Conyers, near Ripon, died in 1704, aged 100.

SUTCLIFFE, JOHN, a farmer in the township of Biercliffe, near Colne, in the ninety-third year of his age, attended, on the 18th of October, 1838, the rent-day of Mr. Foulds, after walking three miles and a half, to pay his rent the one hundred and sixtieth time, having come regularly twice a-year, for the previous eighty years, without a single interruption. This family has resided on the estate for upwards of two centuries, during which time they have always—at the season—brought a live goose as a boon, and the present Mr. Sutcliffe says that he has heard his grandfather assert that, in the earlier part of his time when they had occasion to buy it, the price paid for the goose was four-pence.

SYKES, JOHN, of Snowgatehead, in Fulstone, parish of Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, died in 1800, aged 101 years.

T

TATE, MRS., widow, of Malton, died in 1772, aged 106.

TARRAN, CHRISTOPHER, of Sutton, near Richmond, died in 1827, aged 93. He was a man of very eccen-

tric habits, and much given to seclusion, which he at length carried so far, as to shut himself up entirely from the world, and live alone in his chamber, from which he never stirred during the last twenty years of his life, nor ever, but on two occasions, admitted any one within its precincts.

TAYLOR, MARY, died February 4th, 1860, in the Union Workhouse, Doncaster, aged 103.

THOMPSON, JOSEPH, farmer, of Walmgate bar, York, died in 1781, aged 103. He left a son nearly eighty years of age.

THOMPSON, FRANCIS, of Binsoe, near Bedale, died in 1746, aged 112. He was buried in the church yard of West Tanfield, where a tombstone records the above facts.

THOMPSON, JOSEPH, of Lyth, near Whitby, died in 1817, aged 102.

THORNTON, JAMES, of Pudsey, died in 1699, aged 104.

TODD, MARY, of Richmond, died in September, 1790, aged 105. Her life was an almost uninterrupted course of good health, and her sight was so perfect to the end of her days that she had no need of spectacles.

TRUEMAN, ISAAC, of Kettlewell, near Skipton, died in 1770, aged 117. Till within a year of his death he had

the enjoyment of his sight, and all other faculties, in as great perfection as he had at thirty. He had served in the army, was sergeant in the first year of Queen Ann, and was engaged in many battles and sieges, during her reign, upon the continent. After leaving the regiment, nearly the whole of his time was devoted to fishing.

TURNER, MRS., of Everthorpe, near Cave, died in 1806, aged 104.

W

WATKINSON, PHÆBE, of Gleadless, near Sheffield, died in 1819, aged 107.

WAINWRIGHT, GEORGE, of Dore, near Sheffield, died in 1821, aged 107.

WAINWRIGHT, JOHN, of Cherry Tree Hill, Sheffield, died in 1809, aged 96.

WADE, THOMAS, of Addingham, died in 1810, aged 101.

WALKINGTON, WILLIAM, of Kirkby Misperton, near Malton, died 1820, aged 111.

WESTMORLAND, WILLIAM, Esq., of Harrogate, died in 1798, aged 99. He enjoyed such an uninterrupted state of good health as to attend constantly at the “Spa” till within a fortnight of his decease.

WELLS, HENRY, of Whitby, died in 1794, aged 109.

His health was uniformly sound and good till a short time before his death. He was, however, almost blind, and was led through the streets by a poor woman, carrying on his shoulders a few mats, for sale, of his own manufacture.

WEBSTER, MARY, widow, of Hull, died in 1816, aged 104.

WHITEHEAD, JOSHUA, of Addlecroft, near Huddersfield, died in 1828, aged 105.

WHITEHEAD, JOHN, of Cleckheaton, died in 1814, aged 97. He left one hundred and ninety-nine descendants.

WHEATLEY, MR., clothier, of Leeds, died in 1780, aged 106.

WHARTON, GEORGE, of Laverton, near Ripon, died January 23rd, 1844, aged 112. He enjoyed an almost uninterrupted flow of health and spirits till within a few weeks of his death ; was of a cheerful, lively, disposition, and enjoyed a jest and temperate glass as much as any man. In personal appearance he was particularly neat and clean, his dress in the fashion which prevailed about fifty years before his death. He always wore very large buckles on his shoes ; was low in stature, slender, smart, erect, and nearly always in motion during

the day; retired to rest early, and rose early in the morning. His sight was so perfect that he could read the smallest type of a newspaper, without spectacles, till within a year of his death. He was born in London, and could remember the news arriving in England, of the capture of Quebec, and the death of General Wolfe in 1759—was full of anecdote of the Middlesex elections, and “Jack Wilkes,” whom he used to describe as “an ugly squinting fellow.” In his early manhood he was impressed and served aboard a man of war in the East Indian seas, and elsewhere.

WHITEHEAD, LEVI, of Bramham, died in December, 1787, in the 100th year of his age. He was noted for swiftness in running; having won the *buck's head* for several years, at Castle Howard. He also won the five Queen Ann's guineas, given by William Aislabie, of Studley, near Ripon; beating the then noted Indian, and nine others, selected to start against him. In his twenty-second year, he ran four miles over Bramham moor, in nineteen minutes; and, what is more remarkable, in his ninety-fifth and ninety-sixth years he frequently walked from Bramham to Tadcaster, a distance of four miles, in an hour. He retained his faculties to the last.

WHITE, SARAH, of Bramley, near Leeds, died in November, 1760, aged 106.

WHARTON, MRS. MARGARET, died at Thirsk, in 1791, aged 103. She was of the family of the Whartons of Skelton Castle, in Cleveland; was never married, immensely rich, and extremely eccentric, setting the conventional usages of high life at defiance, or treating them as frivolous. In person she was short, and rather stoutly built. She was possessed of a fortune of two hundred thousand pounds; of which, with rare liberality, she made her nephew a present of one hundred thousand pounds. Her charities were liberal, but always private: nothing hurt her so much as to have them divulged. She withdrew her benevolence from those who spoke of receiving her gifts. It gave her great pleasure to know that she was deemed rich.

For some time she resided at York, and visited Scarborough in the season; where, from her frequently sending for a pennyworth of Strawberries, and a pennyworth of cream, she obtained the name of "Peg Pennyworth," which never forsook her. An incident occurred in which she displayed her aversion to public charity—some gentlemen soliciting her charity, whom she could scarcely deny, about the year 1774, when light guineas

were in disgrace, she pulled a number out of her purse, and, turning them over, selected one of the lightest ; this produced a few winks and smiles : but the matter was not to rest here ; the celebrated Foote laid hold of the incident, and drew her character in a farce, under the name of “Peg Pennyworth.” When informed of this circumstance, she exclaimed, with a smile—“I will see it acted, as I live.” She did, and declared with joy, that they had done her justice.

She frequently chose to be her own caterer, making her own purchases, and taking them home in her carriage. Once, having purchased some eels, she put them in her pocket, entered her coach, and called upon a lady, to take her an airing. The warmth of her body soon revived the seemingly dead eels, and one of them crept out to enjoy a little fresh air. The lady friend saw it, and screamed out in horror,—“Madam ! you have an adder creeping about you ! Coachman, stop ! let me out ! let me out !” To this tragic exclamation Margaret coolly replied,—“you need not be frightened, madam, I protest one of my eels is alive.” In one of her visits to Scarborough, she, with her usual economy, had a family pie made for dinner ; she directed the footman to take it to the bakehouse, who rather declined, as not

being his place, or his dignity might suffer a little in consequence of performing so ungentlemanly an action—she next moved the question to the coachman, but found a stronger objection still—so, to save the dignity of both, she resolved to take the pie herself; and ordered one to harness and bring out the carriage, the other to mount behind; and, entering the coach herself, took the pie, thus honourably dignified, to the bakehouse. When baked, coachee was ordered to put to his horses a second time, and the footman again to mount, and the pie was brought back in the same honourable state in which it went. “Now,” says she to the coachman, “you have kept your place, which is to drive”—“and yours,” to the footman, “which is to wait.”

A clergyman’s wife having kept up a visiting connexion in York, the clergyman dying, and leaving the lady in affluence, she retired to Thirsk, with four daughters, and solicited Mrs. Wharton to pay her a visit. She consented, took her carriage and servants. After some time, the lady began to think the visit rather protracted, particularly as she had a family of her own to provide for; but Mrs. Wharton thought that treating the young ladies with a frequent airing in her carriage was an ample recompense. A growing discontent cannot be

smothered. The lady could neither find a remedy nor complain. At length she ventured to hint to Mr. Wharton—"that the pressure was great." "Be silent, madam," said he; "let my aunt have her way, I will pay you two hundred a year during the life of my aunt, and one hundred during your own, should you survive her."

Mrs. Wharton ended her days with this lady, and the hundred a year was regularly paid to the day of her death.

WILKINSON, MARY, of Romaldkirk, died in 1783, aged 109.

WILSON, WILLIAM, of Whitkirk, near Leeds, died in 1830, aged 101.

WILKINSON, FRANCIS, of Bishopton, near Ripon, died in 1830, aged 105.

WIGGIN, THOMAS, of Carlton, in Craven, died in 1670, aged 108. He enjoyed a remarkable good state of health, and was able to walk about till within a few days of his death.

WILKINS, MAJOR, died in 1756, aged 100. He was imprisoned for debt in York Castle, during the long period of fifty years.

WILSON, WILLIAM, of East Row, near Whitby, died in 1795, aged 100.

WILSON, NATHANIEL, of Cottingham, near Hull, died in 1804, aged 96. His faculties were so sound, and his general health so good, as to enable him to maintain himself by the labour of his hands, till within about two years of his death. He buried his wife when he was about sixty-two years of age; after which, for the long space of thirty-two years, he lived in the same cottage alone. He was very abstemious in his diet, living chiefly on bread, cheese, and milk.

WILSON, THOMAS, of Minskip, near Boroughbridge, died in March, 1859, aged 96. He was able to walk about till within a few days of his death; of a kind, easy, cheerful, disposition, and a remarkably early riser.

WILLIAMSON, ELIZABETH, of Scarborough, died in 1856, aged 102.

WIDDOP, ADAM, of Keighley, died in 1656, aged 100.

WILKINSON, ELIZABETH, of Butterworth's yard, Kirkgate, Leeds, died January 8th, 1833, aged 93.

WOODWARD, FRANCES, of Carlton, in Craven, died in 1662, aged 102.

WOOD, SUSANNAH, of Newton-upon-Ouse, near York died in 1780, aged 104.

WOODHOUSE, MR., of Hallam, near Sheffield, died in 1821, aged 95. He left one hundred and fifty-five

descendants. The faculties of his mind continued sound and clear to the end of his days, and he frequently adverted to the circumstance of being employed, when a young man, to convey straw for the use of the troops encamped on Doncaster moor, during the rebellion of 1745.

WOOD, NATHAN, of Soyland, near Halifax, died December, 25th, 1704, aged 108.

WRIGHT, MRS. MARY, a highly esteemed minister of the Society of Friends, died in Camp Lane Court, Leeds, March 14th, 1858, in her 104th year.

WRIGHT, HENRY, of Keighley, died in 1598, aged 100.

WALKER, OLD MOLLY, a character well-known in Craven, died at the "Club Houses," Skipton, January 21st, 1862, aged 103 years.

ADDENDA.

BOOTH, ELLEN, of Scholes, Kirkburton, was buried in July, 1708, aged 100.

CLAYTON, ELIZABETH, widow, Kirkburton, was buried February 20th, 1655, in the 113th year of her age.

ELLIS, ROBERT, of Burnside, Hepworth, was buried December 25th, 1749, aged 106 years.

GREENE, ELIZABETH, of Holme, in the parish of Almondbury, was buried April 8th, 1596, aged 100 years.

GRIME, NICHOLAS, of Brockholes, Almondbury, was buried March 9th, 1695, aged 96 years.

KAY, DINAH, of Castle Hill, Almondbury, widow, was buried March 10th, 1695, aged 105 years.

EARNSHAW, MARIA, of Honley, widow, was buried March 10th, 1695, aged 90 years; and

DYSON, ALICE, widow of Daniel Dyson, of Crossland, was buried March 10th, 1695, aged 63 years.

The above four individuals,—whose united ages amounted to three hundred and fifty-four years,—were

all buried at the Parish Church of Almondbury, within the space of forty-eight hours ; affording another proof that there are times more than ordinarily fatal to the aged.

HINCHLIFFE, JAMES, of Millshaw, in Hepworth, clothier, was buried in May, 1812, aged 102 years.

LEE, —, widow, of Broom Bank Steele, was buried March 2nd, 1670, aged 105 years.

ONE HUNDRED ON FRIDAY.

A VETERAN HUNTSMAN'S COMING
BIRTHDAY.

Thomas Ventress, of Goathland, near Whitby, who was for 17 years huntsman of the Stainton-dale foxhounds, and for 16 years of the Goathland hounds, celebrates his one hundredth birthday on Friday, July 15, and will be quietly presented with an enlarged photograph of himself, suitably framed and bearing an inscription plate, the gift of the parishioners.

Ventress comes of a family noted for longevity ; a late sister recently reached her hundredth year. His wife died at the age of 89. They had a family of ten. When Ventress was huntsman both packs were trencher fed, and were hunted on foot.

Ventress cannot read much, and is rather deaf, but he enjoys a pipe.

Works Published by Thomas Thorpe,
And may be procured through any Bookseller.

Just Published, crown 8vo., paper boards, 2s. 6d., cloth, lettered,
3s. 6d., illustrated edition, gilt side and edges, 5s. 6d.,

NIDDERDALE:

OR,

AN HISTORICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE
SKETCH OF THE VALLEY OF THE NIDD.

BY WILLIAM GRAINGE.

"The opening out of the beautiful and highly romantic valley of the Nidd by the Harrogate and Pateley Bridge Railway, rendered some descriptive publication necessary. . . . Hitherto Nidderdale, full of objects of interest, and scenery of the most varied kind, has been a comparatively unexplored region. . . . The book before us is exactly what the district required to make its attractions known to the world; and it is, also, just the book we would place in the hands of the tourist setting out to explore the wonders of Nidderdale."—*Harrogate Herald*.

Now Ready, Foolscap octavo, cloth,

YORKSHIRE LONGEVITY:

OR,

RECORDS AND BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES OF PERSONS
WHO HAVE ATTAINED TO EXTREME OLD AGE WITHIN
THAT COUNTY.

BY WILLIAM GRAINGE.

PATELEY BRIDGE: T. THORPE, PUBLISHER AND PRINTER.
LONDON: T. T. LEMARE, PATERNOSTER ROW;
AND THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER.

WORKS PUBLISHED BY THOMAS THORPE.—CONTINUED.

Also Ready, crown 8vo., in a neat cover,

A GUIDE TO BRIMHAM ROCKS:

Descriptive and Historical.

BY WILLIAM GRAINGE.

In preparation, and shortly will be published, crown 8vo., in a neat wrapper,

A Guide to Stump Cross Caverns, Trowler's Gill, Ravensgill, and Guy's-Cliffe,

WITH

A LIST OF FERNS & MOSSES.

BY WILLIAM GRAINGE.

Price One Penny,

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY:

A LECTURE.

BY G. GREY WATSON, F.H.S.

Published Annually, price One Penny,

THE NIDDERDALE ALMANACK,

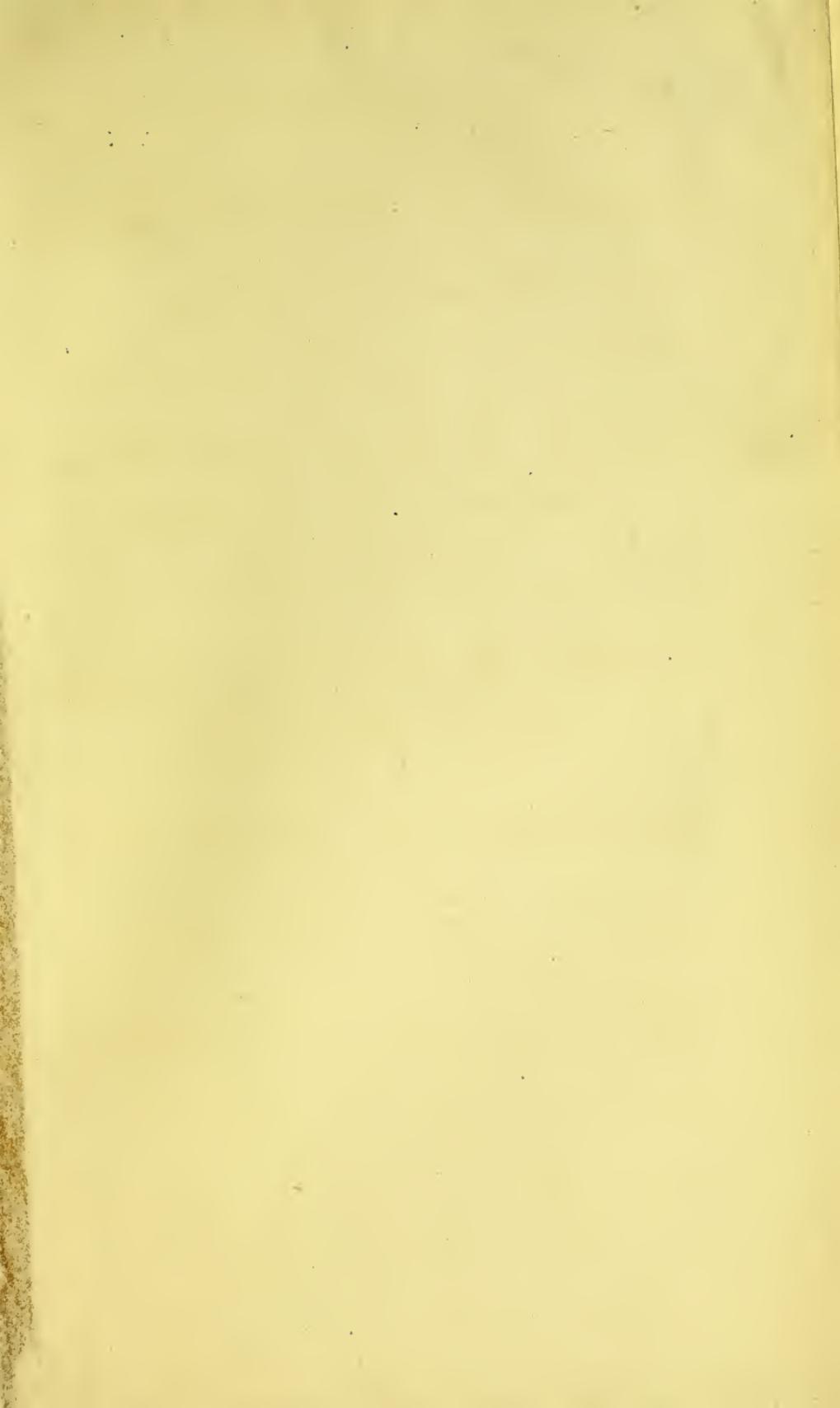
AND YEAR BOOK OF USEFUL INFORMATION.

PATELEY BRIDGE:

THOMAS THORPE, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.

LONDON: T. T. LEMARE, PATERNOSTER ROW;

AND THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER.



Stamp indicates date for RETURN. Fines for late returns will be charged in accordance with the regulations.

Books required by another reader will be recalled after 3 days.

13 JUL #86

